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THE STORY OF ENGLAND

BY THE

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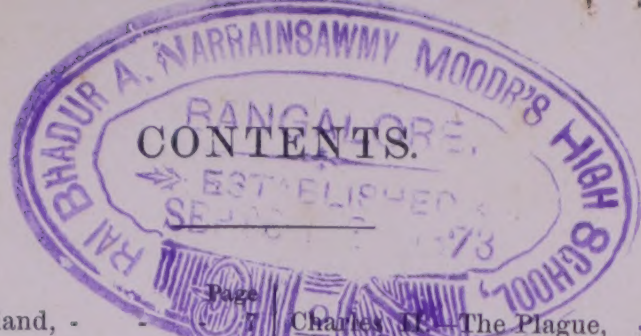
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THE STORY OF ENGLAND.

BRITAIN AND ENGLAND.

1. The Story of England is an account of the English people and their doings in the lands called the "British Isles," and in the empire which they in course of time have gained in all parts of the world. The very name "British Isles" tells us that men of another race than ours were once masters of the soil.

2. Two thousand years ago, the Britons were the only people in what is now called England and Wales. A number of tribes called Picts, perhaps of the same race as the Britons, then held the land now called Scotland. A race akin to the Britons was in Ireland, and a tribe of that race, called Scots, came across and settled among the Picts in the country to which their name was at last given.

3. For over three hundred years the Romans held the Island of Britain, from the sea now called the English Channel to the Grampian Hills in Scotland. Their chief towns were London, York, Chester, and Lincoln, and these and other cities were joined by good roads, and defended by strong walls. London, even then, was a place of much trade. A considerable amount of corn was grown in south Britain, and tin, lead, and iron were got from the mines.

4. By the year 450 the Romans had gone, and left the Britons to themselves. The Roman troops were all wanted to defend their lands in the south of Europe, from the attacks of tribes who were breaking in from the north and east of Europe. At this point begins the real history of England.

5. A people called the Angles lived in a district called Engleland, which now has the name of Schleswig, on the peninsula known as Jutland. To the north of them on this peninsula was a kindred tribe called Jutes.

6. Most of the Angles were to be found, however, on the banks of and between the rivers Elbe and Weser, in the country now called Hanover. Between the Elbe and the Ems, and across the Ems to the Rhine, tribes called Saxons were settled.

7. The Jutes, Saxons, and Angles were all German in speech and blood. They were much alike in their ways of life in private and public matters. They all took a part in the conquest of the land in which we live.

8. It is likely that the Angles were greater in numbers and in power than the other two tribes, and thus it was that, when the conquest was finished, their new home was called Engleland, since shortened into England.

9. These German tribes had thoughts about men and things which they acted out in their way of living, and which it is very important to notice and remember. They held that man is free, and that every freeman, in order to have his full rights as such, should own a piece of land. In their view,

the whole of the land belonged to the people of the tribe, and not to the chief man or chief men among



them. These chiefs, as freemen, would have their share, but could claim no rights over the holdings of others.

10. The freemen of each village or little town, with

its lands cleared of forest and tilled, were called *ceorls*. The men of rank or chiefs were called *eorls*, a term which has given us our word *earl*. From among these were chosen rulers in time of peace, and leaders in time of war.

11. Each village had a rising ground, or, if the country were flat, a sacred tree, where the people met to arrange affairs and to make their own laws. At these meetings all disputes were settled, and all offences punished, according to the "old customs" of the township.

12. Thus, in the oldest times of which we have any account, our forefathers lived in a number of free states or commonwealths. In their way of life, and the spirit which it showed, we see the reason why the English people are now, and have long been, a model of freedom to the rest of the world. Before ever they came to this country at all, they showed that they meant to govern themselves, and not to be ruled by the will of others.

13. For the sake of order, and for the good of all, they had men to govern in peace and in war, but these men were chosen by the body of the people. They paid heed to what had been the rule and custom of those of their kings who had lived before them. When a new law was needed, they made that law themselves.

14. Such a people as this was not likely to become for ever the prey of any tyrant. The spirit of freedom might sleep for a time, but the day was sure to come when it would wake up and burst its bonds.

THE ENGLISH AND THE DANES.

1. In religion the English people were heathens, having false gods, of whom the chief were Woden, the god of war, and Thunder or Thor, the god of air and storm and rain. Their warriors loved hard fighting and deep drinking, and the employments most dear to the men, along with the tilling of the soil, were those which took them into danger.

2. To hunt the wolf and the boar, and go roaming and robbing over the seas in their galleys rowed by fifty oars and more, were dear delights to the English of olden time; with all this, they loved truth and justice, and had great respect for women, and so they were a people likely to make good Christians when the time came for them to hear the truth.

3. Such were the people who, in the fifth century, began to pour into this land on the southern, eastern, and northern shores. For about one hundred and fifty years the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons were busy in beating the Britons back into Wales, Cornwall, and Cumberland, and setting up kingdoms of their own from the shores of the Channel to the Firth of Forth.

4. The first kingdom was founded in Kent; the chief of the others were Northumbria, from the Humber to the Forth; Mercia, in the centre of England; and Wessex, between the Thames and the Channel. There were also kingdoms of East Anglia (in what are now Norfolk and Suffolk), and of Essex, Sussex, and Middlesex.

5. About the year 600, some priests from Rome came to preach the gospel, and the English in time became Christians. For more than two hundred years after this, there was frequent fighting amongst the English themselves, and between them and the Britons of Wales and of the south-west and north-west of England.

6. At last the struggles of the different kingdoms to gain the first place, and bring all the land under one rule, ended in Egbert, King of Wessex, becoming the first king of all the English from the English Channel to the Firth of Forth. This was in 827.

7. Then, for nearly a hundred years, there was trouble with another set of invaders from over the seas, called the Danes or Northmen. These fierce and warlike pirates or sea-robbers came pouring in from Norway and Denmark. They were heathens, and, when they first came, always put the priests to death; but when they settled down in the land they became Christians like the English.

8. The man who had most success against them was the great and good King Alfred, who ruled in Wessex from 871 to 901. But, in spite of him and others, the Danes took and held much of the centre, east, and north of the land.

9. In these places they settled down, and, partly through force used by those kings who came after Alfred, and partly of their own good-will, they came under English rule, and the two peoples were by degrees blended into one.

10. In the eleventh century there was again trouble for a time with the Danes, and such great hosts



The First Preaching of Christianity in Britain.

came over that from 1016 to 1042 there were Danish kings of England. The chief of these was a wise, firm, and just ruler named Canute.

BEDE, ALFRED, DUNSTAN.

1. In the period from the coming of the English to 1042 there were three great men of whom we must here give some account.

The first is known as Beda, or "the venerable Bede," who was born in 673. He was a monk, and, from the age of ten years till his death in 735, he lived in the monastery at Jarrow, on the south bank of the Tyne.

2. He wrote of himself, "I have spent my whole life in the same monastery, and, while attentive to the rule of my order, and the service of the church, my constant pleasure lay in learning, teaching, or writing." There we have the simple, peaceful, happy life of the first great English scholar. He taught what he knew to six hundred monks, as well as to strangers whom the fame of his learning brought to Jarrow.

3. Bede was as humble as he was diligent, pious, and learned, and refused to become the abbot or head of the monastery, because the work of that office would take him away from his studies.

4. He was the father of English learning, and the first English writer of history. All scholars then wrote in Latin, and the most important of Bede's works is his *History of the English Nation*.



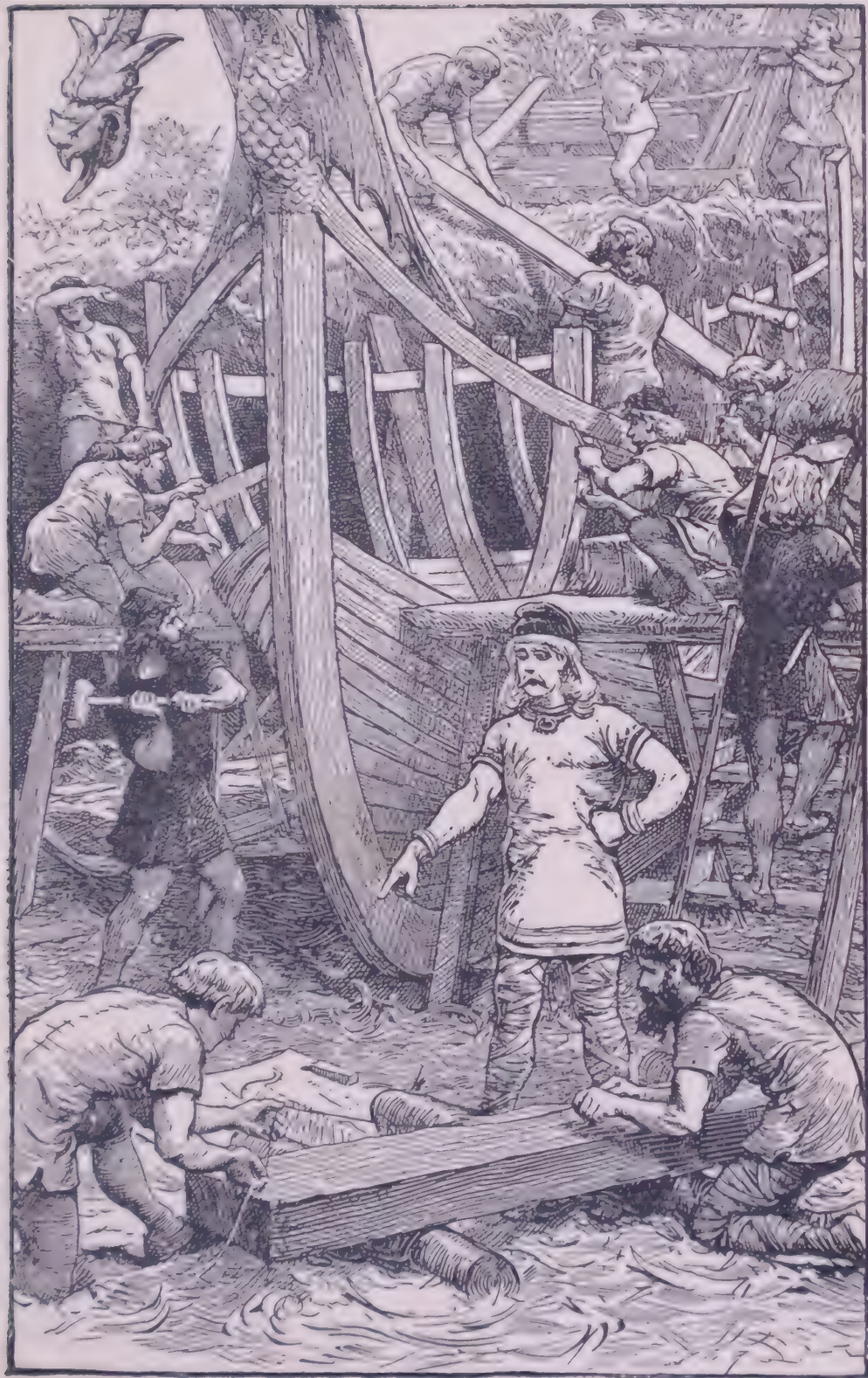
• 5. In this book we get all that we really know of the events of the period from 597 till 731. The last work of this great and good man was a translation of the Gospel of St. John. He drew his last breath on earth a few minutes after he had dictated the last words of the book to the youth who was writing for him.

6. The next of our three worthies is the best of English kings, Alfred, justly named "The Great." He fought the Danes with courage and skill, and built the first great fleet of ships to guard our shores.

7. Alfred's glory lies in the fact that he lived only for the good of his people, and that he was the first among Christian kings to put aside all thought for himself or his own advantage, and to give up his whole time and his best efforts to the welfare of those whom he ruled.

• 8. After making peace with the Danes, he set himself to the work of restoring the land from the ruin which the Danish war had brought upon order, law, justice, government, religion, and learning. He closely watched what was done in the courts of justice, and called the judges to account if he found they had done any wrong.

• 9. He rebuilt churches and monasteries, and started anew the schools which had come to an end with the murder or flight of the monks. He sent for men from abroad to help in the work of teaching. He made himself, or caused others to make, translations of many good books from the Latin into English. He was thus the father of English books in prose,



Alfred's Men building a Ship.

as Bede was of English learning. In his reign, also, the first history of England, in the English tongue, began with the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*.

10. Dunstan is noted as the first of a long line of men in our history who were not only great churchmen but great statesmen. He was born in 925, and became abbot of the famous monastery at Glastonbury. He was a man of wonderful ability and activity, both in book-learning and art, being skilled in music, building, metal-working, and painting, as well as in the general knowledge of that age.

11. Under Edred, king from 946 to 955, Dunstan was chief minister of the crown. Under King Edgar (958 to 975) he became Archbishop of Canterbury, and was for sixteen years of that reign the chief man in affairs both of church and state.

12. Under his wise and firm rule the country was strong and peaceful. Justice and order were secured, and much care was taken to increase trade. The streets of London were seen thronged with traders from abroad, and the city began to have that greatness in commerce which it has held ever since.

THE NORMANS.

1. With the end of the three Danish kings, a new order of things for England begins. The country's story becomes a story of foreign rule. In the tenth century a new name began to be famous in Europe. It was that of the Normans, a nation of Danes or Northmen who had gained for themselves a hold on

the fertile land, with its fine river, the Seine, which is called from them Normandy.

2. Whatever the cause may have been, this part of the Danish race soon showed, in the new land won by their swords, that they were, in body and brains alike, the best of all their kin. They adopted the Christian faith, and, bent on self-improvement, they strove to learn all that the French had to teach them. They gave up their native speech, and made the French tongue their own.

3. In Normandy, as in England, the clergy of those days had nearly all the learning, and from them the Normans gained not only reading and writing, but many useful arts. They soon became the first people of their time in all that has to do with a life of war or of peace. Their courage and skill in battle were the terror of every land from the Baltic Sea to the borders of Spain, and they carried their arms in conquest to the furthest parts of Italy.

4. In their ways of life, they were of much better habits and conduct than their English and Danish neighbours over the narrow seas. The Norman nobles, alone among the peoples of that age, deserved the name of "gentlemen." They were not greedy, as the others were, in eating and in drinking, and in manners they showed politeness where the others were coarse and rude.

5. With the fair faces, blue eyes, and large strong bodies of their race, they had the noble bearing of men who, brave as lions in war and in the chase, could be gentle in speech and manners before ladies.

They took pleasure in poetry and music, and loved to show their wealth in building large and stately castles; in the wearing of rich armour, inlaid with silver and gold; in riding gallant steeds; in eating fine food; and in drinking rich wines.

6. Among this people was educated the man who was to be ruler of England, when the rule of Danish kings came to an end. This was the king called Edward the Confessor, one of the princes of the old English line of kings, now brought to the throne again by the able and powerful Godwin, Earl of Wessex. He was nearly forty years old when he became king in 1042.

7. In his language, tastes, and thoughts, Edward was a Frenchman of Normandy, and he brought over with him a number of Norman friends. These men were put into high offices both in church and state. The Norman-French language and ways of life were now heard and seen at court. Norman nobles built in England the first of the strong stone castles whose remains are still to be seen here and there in the land as ivy-clad, weather-beaten ruins. Thus England was already coming partly into foreign hands.

8. Earl Godwin and other English nobles strove hard to keep the Normans down, and the king was very angry, and sent Godwin for a time out of the country. But he came back with a great fleet up the Thames, and was soon again in power. He died in 1053, and his son Harold took his place and offices, and was for the next twelve years the real master of affairs in England.

WILLIAM, DUKE OF NORMANDY.

1. King Edward the Confessor died in 1066, and it is said that on his death-bed he wished Earl Harold to be the next king. The tomb of Edward is to be seen in Westminster Abbey.

2. There was then no parliament, but the Witan, or council of nobles, chose Harold as king. Then William, Duke of Normandy, at once said that the right to be King of England belonged to himself. The Norman story is that Edward had promised that William should succeed him, and that Harold had sworn an oath to help William to the throne.

3. However that may have been, Harold and the English nobles denied the right of the Norman duke, who at once resolved to try force of arms in the matter. This Duke of Normandy was by far the greatest man of his time, and one of the great men of all time. He had a will which bore down before it all men and things that stood in his way.

4. William was not only an able general, but a wise statesman and ruler in civil affairs. He was one of the most wonderful men in person and character that ever lived. He had the body and strength of a giant, and a very fierce look. He was in courage as brave as a lion, in anger as cruel as a tiger, and quite pitiless in revenge. He had to fight to keep his duchy while he was yet a lad, and even then he was famous for deeds of daring in battle.

5. The bow which he used in the chase was such that no other man could bend it. With his iron mace or club he would force his way through dozens of brave and strong men. He had a voice as clear and loud as the sound of a trumpet, and in battle, when others were giving way in despair, his bravery rose to its highest, and he was able to urge his men on to try for victory once more.

6. The savage nature of the sea-robber, which lay below the new ways and manners of the Normans, was often shown by this terrible man. The people of one of the towns in France insulted him by shouts from their walls, and William took his revenge on those whom he made prisoners. He had their eyes torn out, their hands and feet cut off, and their bodies flung over the walls into the town.

7. When the people in the north of England took up arms against him after the Conquest, he made the whole of Yorkshire a waste, and many thousands of persons were killed. When he wished to make room in Hampshire for the deer which it was his delight to hunt, hundreds of poor peasants were driven from their homes that the king might have his "New Forest."

8. When William was old, King Philip of France laughed at him for his great stoutness of body, and for lying ill so long at his town of Rouen in Normandy. Then the King of England swore that, when he got up from his bed, he would go to mass in Philip's land, and take with him a rich offering of thanks for getting well of his sickness. "I will offer a thousand candles," he cried. "Flaming

brands shall they be, and steel shall glitter over the fire they make."

9. As soon as he was able to rise from his bed, he led an army into Philip's land, and began to use fire and sword against the French king's people. It was then the time of harvest. The crops were all trampled down or fired, and the sky was lit up for many miles by the flame of the burning hamlets and towns. It was this cruel deed that caused the Conqueror's death.

10. As he rode through the town of Mantes, which his troops had taken and fired, his horse trod on some hot embers, and its plunging fatally hurt the king. He was taken to Rouen to die, and then was seen the end of a man who had lived so as to be feared and hated instead of respected and loved.

11. His sons William and Henry left their dying father in greedy haste to get hold of what he had left them. His servants plundered his room as soon as his breath had left him, and his body was found lying bare on the floor. His tomb may be seen at Caen in Normandy.

WILLIAM I.

1. Such was the man who, by his victory over Harold near Hastings in October, 1066, became King of England, and made himself and his Norman nobles the holders of all power in the land. Long before this time the English people, as a body, had already been losing their hold of the land which

they had once tilled as free farmers. The king had grown greatly in power, and a new style of nobles had arisen.

2. At this time much of the soil that once was thought to be the property of the nation had come into the hands of the king, and of this he gave estates to men who served him about the court. These new nobles all looked to the king as their lord.

3. The troubles of the wars with the Danes had driven the free farmers to seek help from those above them, who held the rank of thane, or servant of the king. The farm was now held not as a freehold, but as a feud or fief. This means that, in return for the right of tilling the land and having its produce, the holder was bound to do service to some lord as his superior.

4. The old English freeholder had none above him but God and the law. The new English feudal tenant was bound to follow his lord to the field in war, to go to his court for justice, and to work for certain days, without pay, on his lord's private land. This was the feudal system which William the Conqueror established in England.

5. Most of the soil of the country was divided among the king's sixty thousand followers who had helped him to conquer England, in portions large or small according to the rank and service of those who received them. Every one of these men, and of the tenants who held land under them, took the oath of fealty, or faithfulness to the king as supreme lord. Each of the smaller tenants took a similar oath to the lord from whom he held his lands.

6. Thus the old English feudal lords were pushed from their place by the barons from abroad, and sank into a middle class. The old English freeholders became for a long time little better than serfs. All the chief places of power both in the state and in the church now came into the hands of Normans.

7. The old English Witan, too, became the Great Council of the king, a sort of House of Lords, where sat bishops, abbots, earls, barons, and knights. Norman-French was the language of the king's court and of all the upper class; while the mass of the conquered people kept to the English tongue, which was at last to be spoken by all in the land, rich and poor, high and low, learned and simple alike.

8. The Norman kings had great power over the people as a body; but the barons too, if they joined their forces, had great power against the king. Thus the nobles were able, as we shall see in the reigns of John and Henry III., to keep their own rights, and those of the nation at large, against a wicked or foolish ruler.

9. After the Conquest, there was another and peaceful invasion from Normandy of many persons connected with trade and the arts. The Norman nobles in their new castles, and the Norman abbots in their abbeys, had round them a crowd of French servants and French artists and traders of every kind. Traders from Rouen and Caen settled in the city of London, and there became rich and important men. In this way much was done for the

improvement of England in trade and the arts of life.

10. With Norman abbots and priests came over Norman learning, and in this and other ways good came to the land out of the seeming evil of conquest. The chief good done by the Norman hold of England was that the firm government of the first three Norman kings gave peace to the land, and favoured the growth of trade and the rise and progress of the towns.

11. As the townspeople grew rich, they obtained through the king's favour, or by purchase from him or other feudal lords who had power and right over them, documents called charters.

12. These charters gave them the right of governing themselves. They could freely speak at their meetings to settle affairs, and have equal justice done them by their equals; for every townsman could claim to be tried by his fellows in the town-court which sat every week. Then by degrees these rights of the towns were granted to those who lived upon the feudal lord's lands outside the walls. Thus the old English freedom came slowly back to the whole body of the people.

WILLIAM II., HENRY I., STEPHEN.

1. William II., called Rufus from his red face, became king on his father's death in 1087. He was wicked in his way of life, and, as a king, he was a mere robber of his rich subjects. His chief

minister was a Norman priest named Ranulf, who was made Bishop of Durham in reward for his industry in getting money for his master.

2. The tyranny of Rufus drove away the best man in England, Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury. No one was grieved to hear in 1100 that such a king as this was found dead, with an arrow through his heart, among the ferns and leaves of the New Forest.

3. The dead king's brother, Prince Henry, who was hunting with him that day, rode off at once to Winchester. This city was then the capital of England, and Henry was in haste to seize the royal treasure.

4. The barons wished to have the elder brother Robert, Duke of Normandy, as king, but he was away on the first Crusade, and Henry was at once crowned at Westminster. The English people as a body were soon in Henry's favour, and the barons also were won over by the Charter of Liberties, which the new king was wise enough to grant.

5. This charter guarded the church and the barons from the lawless and endless demands for money made by the two previous kings. The king also undertook for them and the body of the people, that he would rule by the laws of the old English kings, meaning the law and custom of the time of Edward the Confessor.

6. That, however, which most pleased the English was the king's marriage with a lady of their own old royal line. Henry took to wife Matilda, daughter of the King of Scotland. She came, on her

mother's side, from Alfred the Great; and so does Queen Victoria through this same marriage of Henry.

7. For thirty-five years the new king ruled with a hard hand, keeping down the barons, and driving out many who opposed him. He was strict in keeping order, and, though the expenses of war caused him to lay heavy taxes on the people, he would let no one but himself take money from them.

8. In 1106 Henry went to war with his elder brother Robert, and took from him the duchy of Normandy. The defeated duke was kept a prisoner until his death, nearly thirty years afterwards, at Cardiff Castle in Wales.

9. It was in these Norman times of English history that the great and beautiful churches called cathedrals began to be built in many cities. Of these the old Cathedral of St. Paul's in London was one, and in the reign of William Rufus the fine Durham Cathedral was begun.

10. Henry left the throne, on his death in 1135, to his daughter Matilda. This caused a long civil war. Many of the barons did not wish to have a woman rule them, and took the part of Henry's nephew, Stephen, Count of Blois. He was a Frenchman who came over to England, and was chosen king by the people of London and a party among the nobles. Then Matilda (or the Empress Maud, as she was called from her former husband, Emperor of Germany) fought for the rights of herself and her young son Henry.

11. Henry's father was Geoffrey Plantagenet,

Count of Anjou, Maud's second husband, and from him came the name of our Plantagenet line of kings. For the seventeen years of Stephen's reign, England



Duke Robert's Tower at Cardiff.

was in the utmost misery from the ravages of war and the cruel conduct of the barons.

12. First one side and then the other got the upper hand, and between the two parties of fighting nobles and the fierce soldiers whom they hired from abroad,

the people were ground to ruin like the corn between the millstones. Just before Stephen's death a treaty was made, by which Maud's son Henry was to come to the throne, as he did in 1154, with the title of Henry II.

HENRY II.

1. Henry II. was a very powerful king. He was not only ruler of England, but, through what he inherited from his father and mother, and by his marriage with the French princess Eleanor, he was master of nearly all the western half of France.

2. He was also the ablest monarch and the hardest worker of his time. His strong and active body, his sharp face, his lively ready speech, and his restless movement, were those of a man who could will firmly, watch keenly, and carry out his purpose to the end. Rough, passionate, and busy, he made himself felt by all who came near him, and in all affairs in which he mingled.

3. It was in Henry's day that the Normans in our land and the English people began to be quickly formed into a single English nation. They were dwellers on the same soil under the same laws. They were drawn together by trade, and by the same interests of purse and profit.

4. The two peoples were now, to a large extent, related to each other by marriage. The process was nearly completed in the next three reigns, so that the noble of Norman descent whose ancestor had

cursed himself by crying, "May I become an Englishman!" was proud at last of the English name.

5. Henry was a man who cared for nothing but what he thought to be good and strong rule. In his view, this meant the power of the king over all orders and classes in the land. For this end he would trample under foot both the barons and the church. To do him justice, it was not for his own selfish ends that he wanted to be master in his kingdom.

6. He wished to have law and order set up again after the dreadful days of Stephen, and he did great good to the land by the reforms which he made in the rendering of justice to his people. It was he who, in 1176, first caused judges to go on circuit through the kingdom, as they do now, and give the nation justice at assizes, both in civil and in criminal affairs.

7. For this purpose six divisions of the kingdom were made, and the law was thus brought almost to the people's doors. At that time, when roads were bad and distances great, only the rich could come to London to get justice done to them. Several new courts of law were also at this time set up in the capital.

8. The chief minister of Henry for some years was one of those churchmen, who, like Dunstan and Wolsey, also took a great share in state affairs. In 1155 Thomas Becket, a citizen of London who had become a priest, was made chancellor, or chief judge, and chief adviser of the king. He was a very learned and able man of business, and also an accomplished soldier and courtier.

9. In the early part of the reign he fought at Henry's side against the King of France, at the head of 700 knights who had followed him into the field. He was very rich, having received great estates from the king.

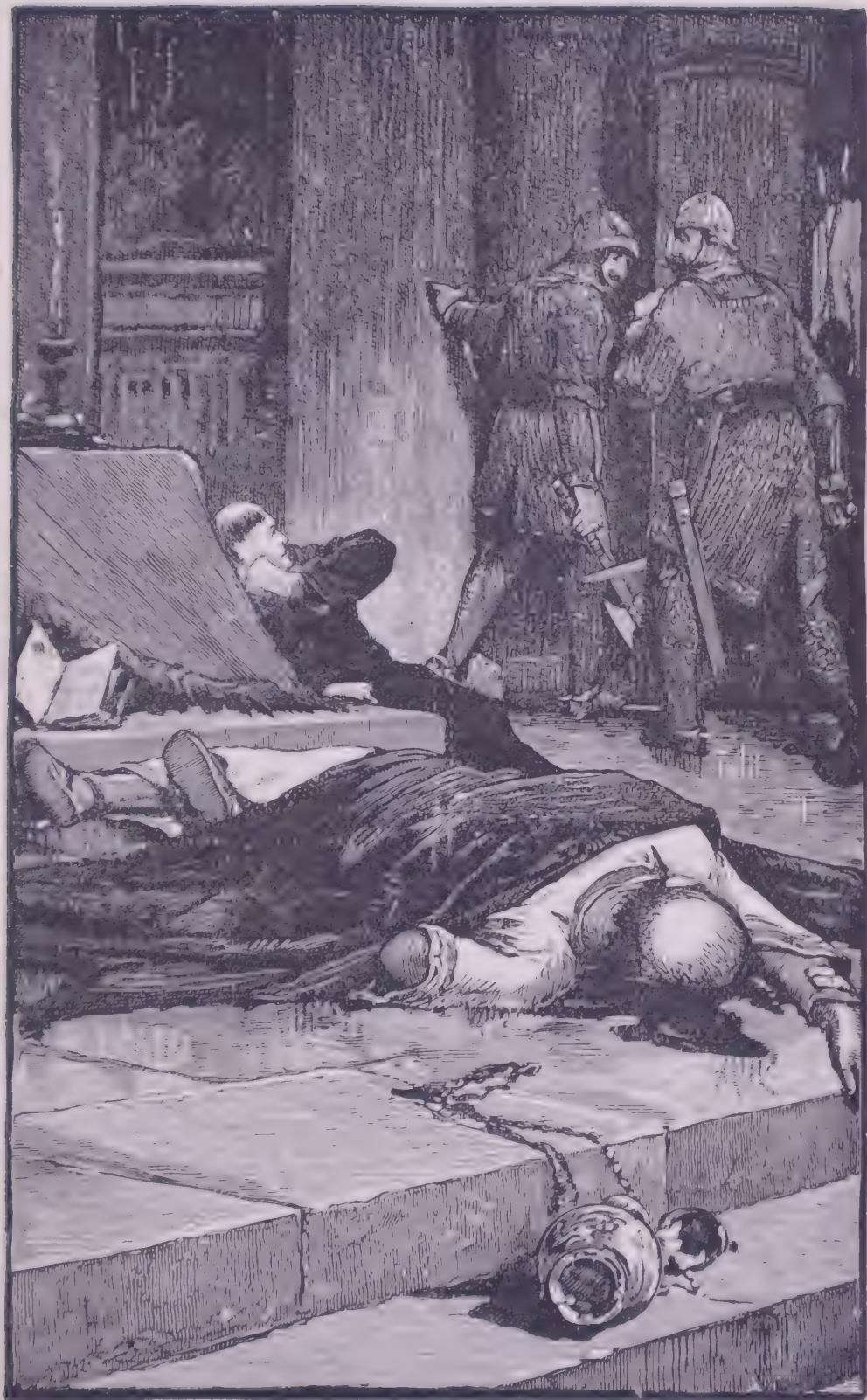
10. It is strange for us who tread on rugs and carpets to read about the splendour of the home of Thomas Becket. His floors were freshly spread every day with clean straw in winter, and in summer with fresh rushes from the river-side or pool. The chambers of nobles of that day had, as a rule, a change of straw or rushes only once a month or so.

HENRY II. AND THOMAS BECKET.

1. In 1162 Becket was made by his admiring king Archbishop of Canterbury. He had always been a strong supporter of the rights of the church against the crown. The king had now made him the first churchman in the land, and the former friends were soon bitter foes.

2. Amidst the changes made by Henry I. the church courts had been left alone. The clergy claimed the right of trying in these courts all those of their own order who were guilty of any crime. These courts could not give the punishment of death at all, and they were thought to be too gentle in their dealings with offenders.

3. Henry was resolved to bring all his subjects, priests or not, under the strong arm of the civil law. At a Great Council of barons and bishops,



The Death of Thomas Becket.

held in 1164 at Clarendon in Wiltshire, it was settled that all priests should be tried, like other offenders, in the king's courts. The king was also to control the choice of bishops, and no clergyman was to quit the kingdom without royal leave.

4. The object of this was to enforce the power of the king over the clergy, so that he alone might be master instead of the pope. Becket at first gave way, and took an oath to keep the law as laid down at Clarendon. He then turned round and asked the pope to free him from his oath. Then Henry, in another council, had a heavy fine laid on Becket, who fled to France, and was for six years in exile.

5. On his return, by the king's permission, in 1170, he again opposed the king. Henry was then in France, and the words of hatred which he uttered in the passion of the moment became a sentence of death to the bold archbishop. Four knights of the king's household came across at once to England. They started purposely by different roads, for fear of being pursued and stopped. When Henry missed them he guessed their purpose. As it happened, none of them was overtaken by the messenger sent after them.

6. In the last days of December, 1170, the four knights met at Becket's house in Canterbury. After a stormy scene with him there, in which he still defied the king, they rushed away to their lodging for their weapons.

7. They then went back and found that Becket had, for safety, been taken by his household into the cathedral. Thither the knights followed, and, after

another quarrel, fell upon him, sword in hand, and killed him. The dead Becket was considered by all the people a saint and martyr, and for many a year pilgrims went to pray at his tomb, where wondrous cures were said to be worked on those who were diseased.

8. It was in Henry's reign that Ireland began to come under English rule. Some of his barons conquered the eastern part of the island, but it did not really become a part of the kingdom until the days of Queen Elizabeth.

RICHARD I.

1. Henry left two sons, Richard and John. Richard I. became king in 1189. He was a very strong and handsome man, with fair face and hair, and large bright blue eyes. His love of fighting and his bravery in war gave him his name of "Lion-hearted." During his reign of ten years he did no good whatever to his people, for whom he cared nothing but as a means of getting money for his wars.

2. Richard's fame rests upon what he did in the Holy Land as a "soldier of the Cross" in the Third Crusade. In those ages large bodies of nobles, knights, and their followers went from time to time to Palestine from France, Germany, England, and other parts of Europe. They wished to free Jerusalem, the holy city, from the power of the Saracens, a people of Turkish race who did not believe in Christ, but in the false prophet Mahomet.

3. For more than a year Richard fought with success against the brave Sultan Saladin, ruler of the Saracens. There is a story that, for long afterwards, in the Holy Land, a mother would try to quiet her baby when it cried by saying, "Hush, here is King Richard!" and that a man would cry to his horse, if it started at any sudden sight or noise, "Dost think it is King Richard?"

4. The life of this king, great as a man of war, though not as a ruler of his people, was full of adventures. On his way to the Holy Land, he stopped to attack the King of Cyprus, who had behaved rudely to a princess of Spain, thrown by shipwreck upon his coast. Richard first dethroned the churlish king, and then married the beautiful lady, whose name was Berengaria, and took her with him to Palestine.

5. On his way home, he was shipwrecked himself on the east coast of the Adriatic Sea. The place where he got ashore was on the lands of the Duke of Austria, who was his deadly foe. The king had grossly insulted the duke, when they were together in Palestine, by trampling under his feet the flag of Austria.

6. Richard knew that he must now be careful, and so he called himself a merchant, coming home to England through Germany. But a page, whom he sent into the town to buy food, wore in his girdle a richly-worked pair of gloves, such as only the pages of the high-born would carry.

7. In those days many men in power were on the look-out to make money by ransom. This means

that they would make a prisoner of any man whom they thought to be rich, and not give him up until a goodly sum of money was paid. The money given for setting him free was called his ransom.

8. The governor of the town heard of the page with the gloves, and had the youth brought before him. He asked him questions about his master, and began to suspect that a rich prize had come to hand. He then sent men to arrest the merchant, and found who he really was. One of the governor's men-at-arms had just come back from the Crusade, and had seen the king there. The governor sent the prisoner on to his ruler, the Duke of Austria, who paid a good reward for the capture.

RICHARD I. AND JOHN.

1. If the duke had given way to his hatred, he would at once have put Richard to death, but he loved money more than revenge. He sold his prize for a large sum to the Emperor of Germany, and this person was minded to make a good profit on the bargain. He let the people of England know that he had their king in his hands, and that they must pay a ransom of a hundred thousand pounds, if they wished to get him back again.

2. This sum of money meant as much then as several millions would now, and it was some time before it was got together and paid. Then Richard was free again, and started off for England. It was quite time for him to do so, for his brother John

had been plotting against him and trying to get the throne. Richard had been a prisoner for more than a year, and it was his enemy, Philip, King of France, who had set John to his evil work.

3. As soon as Philip heard that Richard was about to be freed, he wrote a letter to John, telling him to beware.

4. When Richard returned, he showed that he had at least the virtue of forgiveness to a wicked brother. Many a man in that age would have put such a base brother to death, but Richard only took away his lands and castles, to keep him from doing further harm. He soon gave back some of the lands, that John might have the means of living, but he did not again trust him with any castle to hold.

5. The last scene of Richard's life shows him in the same light. He was trying to take a castle in France in 1199, when he was wounded in the shoulder by an arrow. In our time he would soon have been cured of such a trifle, but the doctors of that age had very little skill. In cutting out the barb of the arrow, they so hurt and tore the flesh that the wound became poisoned, and the king knew he must die.

6. As he lay on his bed in the camp, the castle was taken by his men; and by his orders all the garrison were at once hanged, except the man who fired the arrow. Then Bertrand de Gurdon, the bowman, was brought before the dying king. "What harm have I done to thee, that thou hast killed me?" asked Richard.

7. The man replied that his father and two brothers had fallen by Richard's hand, and that he might take what revenge he pleased. The king at once forgave him, and ordered that he should be set free. But as soon as Richard was dead the captain of the king's host slew the man, who had been kept a prisoner, in spite of the dying king's command.

8. John became king in 1199 by the will of his brother and by the election of the Great Council or Parliament of England. He was the worst of all our kings, and one of the most wicked men that ever lived; but in this case, as in many others, good came out of evil. All his people hated him, and at last the barons rose against him, and forced him to publish in 1215 the statement of the nation's rights which is known as the "Great Charter."

THE GREAT CHARTER.—HENRY III.

1. The Charter was confirmed by other kings, down to Henry VI., no less than thirty-eight times. Thus the freedom of Englishmen was made known to all, and put upon a sure foundation. The Great Charter sets forth the rights of Englishmen. It secures them justice, safety of person and property against the king or any of his servants, and good government.

2. One of the chief points now firmly settled was that the King of England could demand no money or tax from his subjects, without first getting leave

to do so from the Great Council, now called Parliament. Thus it is that all money to be taken from the people, in the way of taxes, is voted by the House of Commons, the members of which are freely elected by the householders of the nation.

3. Another good thing which England owes to the wicked John was the loss of Normandy, from which, as well as from all his other great French possessions, he was driven by Philip of France. If English kings had remained great rulers in France, then England might have become a mere province of that country. By the loss of all that we had there, we became and remained the united English people, safely shut in by the sea which beats upon our shores.

4. When John lost his hold of France, the Norman nobles were forced to make their choice between the two countries. If they went over to live upon their lands in France, they became French subjects. Those who stayed in England, as most of them did, and lived on their estates among the people, soon came to regard England as their country, and the English as their countrymen.

5. The higher class laid aside the use of the French language, and learned to talk English. Thus, in the course of one hundred and fifty years after the Norman conquest, the conquerors had become English themselves, and the great English nation was formed.

6. Henry III., son of John, came to the throne as a boy in 1216, and held the form of rule, without much real power, for fifty-six years. He was



very weak in mind and will, and the nation was very badly governed; for weakness in a ruler does often as much harm as wickedness. He married a French princess, and gave as many posts of power, and as much land as he could, to her French relations and friends. The barons of England would not submit to this, and rose against him with their armies, as they had done against John.

7. The chief result of this civil war was the rise of the House of Commons. The great man of the reign was Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The barons led by him got the rule of England into their own hands for a time. Then the great earl caused men to be chosen by the people of the towns and counties, and sent to plead their cause, and to do business for them, in the Great Council or Parliament.

8. In the reign of Edward III. these elected members began to sit apart in a chamber of their own, and thus the House of Commons began. The name "Commons" means that the members are the men chosen by the *commons*, or body of the people. The bishops and lords, who are not chosen by the people, sit in the House of Lords.

LEARNING UNDER HENRY III.

1. In the reign of Henry III. religion and learning began to have a new power in the moral and mental life of Englishmen. The great schools or universities of Oxford and Cambridge then rose

to fame. It was the Crusades that brought into Europe a fresh desire for knowledge.

2. Those who went into Palestine, to fight against the Saracens, found that there was much more known by the learned men of the East than by those of the West. So men went from England, France, Italy, and Germany to learn in the Moorish schools of Spain and the East. They then came back to teach the people at home.

3. The great Latin writers called Cæsar and Virgil, now so much read in our schools, were studied by the monks in their cells. A strong wish for new light to the mind brought thousands of young scholars to the places where good and learned teachers were to be found.

4. At this time Oxford became a great and important place. Its strong Norman castle gave it the command of the valley of the Thames, along which river the trade of the south of England then largely flowed. Many rich Jews were settled there, and the city quickly grew in wealth. There were several thousand young students who came from all parts of the land; some from as far north as Scotland.

5. A new power was thus springing up in the midst of a country which was as yet under the rule of bodily strength and force of arms. The young men of parts far distant from each other were brought face to face, and, in coming to know one another, a stronger feeling of brotherhood as members of the same English nation sprang up among them. Youths of all classes met there on the same footing.

6. Riches, rank, bodily strength, skill in arms, all went for nothing in the class-rooms of the university. There, knowledge alone was the giver of real power. The student who had the best brains, and paid the most heed to his teacher and his books, was ranked far above the dull or idle scholar who had in his veins the best blood of England.

7. One of the greatest men that our country has ever had lived at this time. He was named Roger Bacon, and his life was given up to gaining all the learning that was then to be obtained. He studied at Oxford and Paris, and spent all his money and time in gaining knowledge for himself and others. Books were then very dear, the art of printing being unknown, and nothing but the patience and hard work of the man brought him through the task which he had taken in hand.

8. We learn from himself that, in twenty years, he spent on his studies the sum of more than two thousand pounds, which in those days was a large fortune. He then became a friar or monk of the order of Saint Francis.

9. His chief study in the branch of learning which is called natural science was that of optics, which has to do with the laws of light and the powers of the eye. In this he led the way to many modern discoveries, such as that of the instrument called the telescope. He was also a good scholar in Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, which was a rare thing for a man of that time.

10. Roger Bacon wrote a book in which he set forth all the knowledge of the time in every branch

of science, and laid down the right rules for men to get real learning.

11. Another famous man lived in the time of Henry III. What he has written shows us that, among the lawyers and scholars who thought, as well as among the barons who fought, the English people had men who would maintain the rights of subjects against all wrong-doing of their kings.

12. A judge named Henry of Bracton wrote in Latin a great work upon the Laws and Customs of England. In that book, when put into English, we have these striking words:—"The king must not be subject to any man, but to God and the law, for the law makes him king. Let the king, therefore, give to the law what the law gives to him, dominion and power: for there is no king where will and not law bears rule."

13. The simple meaning of these words is, that if an English king breaks the law, and does only his own will, he is no longer king, and his subjects may put him away and choose another to rule over them. The real force of this teaching will be seen when we come to the reigns of Charles I. and James II., two kings whom the English people put down from the throne because they ruled without law.

THE FRIARS.

1. In religion, amongst the mass of the people, much was done at this time by the work of the good men called Friars. The word is a French one,

meaning brothers; and these men were monks, given up to a religious life, as brethren or members of certain orders called after the men who founded them. Early in the thirteenth century, the order called Dominicans was started by a Spaniard named



(1) Dominican, and (2) Franciscan Friar.

Dominic, and the Franciscans took their name from Saint Francis of Assisi, a town in Italy.

2. The Franciscans were among those who worked for the poor in England. They were themselves bound by a vow to possess no money or house or land or other kind of wealth; to give up all the pleasures of the world; and to pass their lives in tending the sick and teaching the ignorant poor.

3. They lived upon what was given them by the rich, and by the middle class of traders, and went about the country with bare feet, and clad in grey

woollen robes, from which they were called Grey Friars. In the towns, above all, these men were welcomed by the people. Full of zeal, they preached in a way that all the poor could understand.

4. In those days there was far more sickness than now, and bad fevers, and the dreadful disease known as leprosy, were common in the crowded homes of the towns. The friars knew all that was then known about medicine, and it was in the meanest and poorest quarters of each town that they took up their abode. Amongst the lepers, who lived apart from the rest of the townsmen, they worked and nursed and taught, and such a life of course made all the people love them.

5. Some of the most learned men of the age, such as Roger Bacon, were in the ranks of the Grey Friars. One of the most famous in England was Adam Marsh of Oxford, a great friend of Simon de Montfort.

6. It was by the labours of these friars that the poor people of the towns were raised from the depths of ignorance, vice, and misery to a higher life. They began to feel that they were men, and to be proud that they were Englishmen.

7. The effect of the work of the barefooted men in grey is to be seen in the fact, that the people of the towns were the steady supporters of freedom during the war of the barons against Henry III.

8. The friars were men who wished to bring order into the affairs of the church, and to stand up against evil rule in every shape. A strong desire for better government arose among the

townsfolk, and they followed the lead of the friars in being friends of Simon de Montfort.

EDWARD I.—HIS CHARACTER.

1. Edward I, who ruled for thirty-five years, from 1272 till 1307, was one of the greatest of English kings. By his person, character, and conduct he deserved and won the highest respect from those whom he ruled. His body was that of a born soldier. His length of limb gave him the nickname of "Longshanks." His tall, deep-chested frame could perform and endure all action and toil that are possible for man.

2. He fought as few men ever could, either on horseback with the lance, or on foot, sword in hand, against a crowd of foes. Even in his youth, he showed the skill of a great general, both in leading a great army in the field, and in drawing up his troops for attack or defence in the hour of battle.

3. It was by these powers of mind and body, along with a firmness of will which nothing could resist, that he beat Simon de Montfort at Evesham before he came to the throne. It was thus that he conquered North Wales in 1277 and 1282, in spite of all that could be done by the courage of the natives, amid the rugged ground and the snows of their mountains.

4. In Scotland, on the night before a battle, he lay on the bare ground amongst his men, and once in Wales he would not drink of the one cask of wine

that was left. He said to his thirsty troops, "I brought you into the trouble, and now we are in it, I will have no better than you in meat or drink."

5. Such a man as this could not fail to be loved, trusted, and admired by his people. Edward was, in fact, the first English king since the Conquest who really loved, trusted, and cared for the English people. It was he who placed our parliament on the firm footing which it still has. It was for them that he caused great laws, which are still in force, to be made for the good of English order and freedom.

6. Edward I. was a really national ruler, and with him modern England begins. His name of Edward was purely English, coming after the Norman Williams and Henrys. A king of English name came to the throne at the time when those who won and those who lost at the battle of Hastings were blending into one race—the modern English.

7. In temper, too, and in heart, Edward was a thorough Englishman. In him the virtues and faults of the English were fully and clearly seen. On the one hand, the English are, on the whole, just, truthful, hard-working, unselfish, and devoted to duty; on the other, they are wilful, stubborn, proud, and slow to understand. They are also somewhat harsh in command, not ready to give up the least part of what they think their rights, and not quick in feeling for the wrongs and sufferings of those who do not belong to their own class, or race, or nation.

8. Like some of his French forefathers, Edward at times gave way to fits of great anger. But as a rule he was generous, trustful, ready to forgive, and not willing to be cruel. He had been a good son to father and mother alike, and was a good father to his own children.

9. As a husband, he was all that wife could wish. He married, many years before he came to the throne, a Spanish princess named Eleanor of Castile. In 1291 she died in Lincolnshire. The sorrowing king and husband wrote to one of her friends, "I loved her tenderly in her lifetime, and I do not cease to love her now she is dead."

10. The queen's body was brought by short stages, over the bad roads of that age, up to London, for burial in Westminster Abbey. At every place where the party of mourners halted for the night, Edward afterwards built a memorial, with a cross at the top. The road taken can thus be traced by the hamlets having "cross" as part of their name.

11. The finest of these monuments of the king's love for his dead wife was built at Waltham Cross in Hertfordshire. They were all known as Eleanor Crosses, and the very last was built at what was then the village of Charing, between the cities of London and Westminster. The name remains in the busy part of London known as "Charing Cross."

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EDWARD I. AS KING.

Accession No. :

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1. We come now to the great things done by this king, in the way of bringing Parliament to the form which it now has. We shall also mention some of the good laws there made, and the courts of law set up by him for the giving of justice to his people. The first thing which he did, when he became ruler, was to finish the work begun by Henry II. in making courts of law.

2. Laws were now made to curb the power of the church. The chief of these was one to prevent people from pretending to give land to the abbeys and churches, in such a way as to escape the payment of taxes for the service of the state. By the *Statute of Merchants* Edward protected trade, and gave traders large powers to enable them to collect the money due from buyers.

3. Another law provided for public order and safety in the way of national police and national defence. Every man was thus bound to be ready, if called upon, both to take up arms against rebels, rioters, and robbers at home, and to meet invaders from abroad. The gates of each town were to be closed at nightfall, and all strangers who came in had to give an account of themselves to the magistrates.

4. From among the country gentlemen were appointed those now called justices of the peace, or those who try the smaller offenders in the weekly courts of the country towns, and the daily courts of the larger places.

5. Another law enabled land to be more easily sold and divided amongst new owners. Thus the class of small land-owners grew slowly and surely in numbers and importance.

6. From the year 1295 onwards the knights of the shire, or county members, came by rule to all the meetings of Parliament. From the same date the borough members, or those who sit for towns and cities, began to come in regular course, though at first in small numbers, to every meeting of Parliament. All that Edward did in war was of small account, compared to what we have just told of his work as a legislator.

7. Edward's fighting against the Welsh has already been spoken of. It was not till the time of Henry VIII. that Wales became really united to England, and sent members up to Parliament. Edward's next enterprise was an attempt to conquer Scotland. In this he really failed in the end, though he held parts of the country for a time. Under a brave knight named William Wallace, the Scots fought against English rule, and gained a great battle at the Bridge of Stirling in 1297. The next year Edward, with his archers, severely defeated Wallace at Falkirk.

8. Some years afterwards the Scottish hero was taken prisoner, brought up and tried as "a traitor" at Westminster, and cruelly put to death. But the spirit of the Scots had been fully roused, and a new leader was found in the famous Robert Bruce.

9. Under Bruce, as king, the Scots gained, in 1314, in the reign of Edward II., the great victory of

Bannockburn, near Stirling. From that hour the freedom of Scotland was safe, and in 1603 she herself gave a king to England in the person of James I.

EDWARD I. AS KING (*Continued*).

1. We must not forget the growth of trade in the reign of Edward I. To the commerce with Norway and North Germany, the wool trade with Flanders, and the wine trade with France, was now added much traffic, by way of the sea, with Italy and Spain. Many rich traders and bankers from abroad settled in London, and in the sea towns of our southern coast.

2. Under Edward I., also, the building of the great churches called cathedrals reached its highest point of beauty. Then was finished the church of Westminster Abbey begun by Henry III., and then rose in the sky the stately spire of Salisbury.

3. Edward had much trouble with the great lords of the country called, as a body, the Barons, or Baronage. These men were no longer like the Norman nobles who had ruled by force, and often in spite of the law. They were nobles of England now, and in them the English people fully trusted.

4. It was their place to stand up, and they did stand up, against English kings, for the rights of themselves and the nation at large. They had won English freedom by their swords from the wicked tyrant John. They were not minded to give up

that freedom even to a king so good and wise as Edward I.

5. Three times during his reign Edward promised to abide by the Great Charter. One of the chief points of that noble roll of freemen's rights was that none should pay tax to the king without the consent of the Parliament.

6. The spirit of the lords of England was shown by Earl Warenne. When the king sent out a written order for inquiry to be made by judges into certain rights claimed by the barons, the earl bared a rusty sword and flung it on the table of the court. "This, sirs," he cried, "is my warrant. By the sword our fathers won their lands when they came over with William, and by the sword we will keep them."

7. Against such men even the stern justice of Edward found it difficult to enforce order, even when the law was on his side. When the law of the Great Charter was against him, no wonder that he should fail.

8. Towards the end of his reign the king needed money for war in Scotland and in Flanders. He raised taxes on wool and in other ways without the consent of the Parliament. The barons rose to resist, and two of them flatly refused to lead a force into France on the king's service. Edward swore to one of them, the Earl of Norfolk, that he should either go or hang. "I will neither go nor hang, Sir King," cried the earl.

9. Edward then called a Parliament to ask them to vote the money he wanted. Then was shown

the noble nature which lay beneath the proud and stern outward bearing of this greatest of English rulers.

10. When the Parliament came together, the king's high spirit was for the time broken by his helpless state. In Westminster Hall he came face to face with the lords and with the members sent up by the people.

11. He there owned, as he shed tears, that he had taken their goods from them in taxes without due warrant of law. He declared that it was not for himself he had done so, but for the honour of the country, to pay for her armies on the field of battle.

12. He then strongly appealed to their love and trust to help him with his war in Flanders. The money was granted, but they sent after Edward to Flanders a charter which he signed, promising never more to take money by taxes without consent of Parliament.

EDWARD II.—EDWARD III.

1. Edward II., son of the great Edward, came to the throne in 1307, and reigned for twenty years. He was wicked in his way of life, but had some ability, which he used to carry on his father's struggle against the power of the barons. As all the English nobles were banded against him, he called in to his aid a man of French birth named Piers Gaveston.

2. This man was wild and worthless in life, but the king made him Earl of Cornwall and chief

minister. The barons forced Edward to banish Gaveston for a time; but he came back again, and then the English nobles took matters into their own hands. In 1310 Parliament made twenty-one lords rulers of the kingdom for a year. Gaveston was sent away, and when he returned in 1312 he was beheaded.

3. Then for six years there was great trouble in the land. Bad harvests brought famine, and there was little rule or order in the country. The disgrace of the English defeat at Bannockburn in 1314 was followed by ravages of the Scots in the north of England.

4. The king's new advisers were a father and son named Despenser. The leader of the barons was a powerful noble of royal blood, the Earl of Lancaster, grandson of Henry III. For a time Edward had the upper hand, when Lancaster was defeated at Borough-bridge in 1322, and beheaded as a traitor.

5. The queen, a French princess named Isabella, then joined a party of lords against the king. Edward found himself helpless, when his wife took the field at the head of an army in Suffolk. In 1327 he was deposed by Parliament, and soon afterwards murdered at Berkeley Castle, in Gloucestershire.

6. The late king's son, Edward III., reigned for fifty years. He is one of the most notable rulers in the whole course of English history. He had great ambition and power of work, with skill and courage in war, and was very able in directing affairs.

7. In 1330, at eighteen years of age, he began to rule. The first thing he did was to lay hands at Nottingham Castle on the queen-mother's wicked favourite, Roger Mortimer. This man, along with Queen Isabella, had been holding power since the foul murder of Edward's father. Mortimer was



Berkeley Castle, where Edward II. was murdered.

hanged as a traitor at Tyburn, near London, and Isabella was kept a prisoner for life at Castle Rising, in Norfolk.

8. On one day in each year Edward went to visit his mother, and then rode away, leaving the wicked woman still helpless to do, and also safe from suffering, any further harm. From her cruel treatment of her husband, the poet Gray has called her "the she-wolf of France."

9. In this reign the French language fell into

disuse even among the higher class, thus completing the fusion of the whole people into the one English nation. In 1362 the English language was by order adopted in all the courts of law. In 1363 it was employed by the chancellor in the speech made on opening Parliament, and soon after this all the schools began to teach English grammar instead of French.

EDWARD III. AS KING.

1. Much so-called glory, but no real good, was won under Edward III. in fighting against France. In his reign the struggle known as the Hundred Years' War began; a struggle which caused vast suffering at the time, and an enmity between the two nations which lasted for hundreds of years.

2. Edward had been roused to anger by French help given to the Scots. He also put forward a claim to the French crown, to which he had not the least right. Thus the conflict began.

3. In 1340 the English fleet gained a great battle near Sluys, on the coast of Flanders. In 1346 the French were routed at the battle of Crécy, in the north of France. In 1356 the famous Black Prince, the king's eldest son, gained the battle of Poitiers in the west. Much of France was conquered by England, and yet, before the reign closed, all was again lost except a few towns. This was chiefly due to the courage and skill of the noble French warrior, Bertrand du Guesclin.

4. When we turn from useless and cruel war to



the affairs of peace and government in England, we find a happier state of things. There was one dreadful blow, indeed, which fell on the land without blame to the king, nobles, or people. It was mischief due to the ignorance of an age which knew little of the true means for keeping the human body in health.

5. Among the chief things necessary for this purpose are pure air and pure water. Dirt, if not removed, breeds disease, and foul air and water are likely to cause fevers.

6. In 1348 and 1349 a plague called the *Black Death*, coming from the East, raged through the British Isles. About half the people died, and the living were scarcely able to bury those who perished. The crops were left to rot on the ground for want of hands to cut them, and town and country alike were full of mourning and woe.

7. In 1351 a law was passed called the *Statute of Treasons*, which was important for the defence of subjects against the will of any bad and cruel king. Till then, if any man went against the ruler's wishes, his speech and action could be called "treason," because it was not clearly known and shown what that word meant.

8. It was laid down in the new law that treason can only be charged against a subject who plans the king's death, or makes war against him, or gives help to the king's enemies abroad.

9. Towards the end of his reign, after the loss of English power in France, Edward became weak in mind, and was under the control of a wicked woman

named Alice Perrers. The rule of the country fell into the hands of a party of barons headed by the king's son, John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

10. At this period we find the House of Commons, for the first time, coming boldly to the front against the lords and the crown alike. The "Good Parliament," as it was called, of 1376 took matters firmly in hand.

11. The speaker of the Commons, along with the members, went before the royal council and the Duke of Lancaster. The bad conduct of the war, and the waste of money raised by taxes, were strongly spoken of. The duke tried to silence them, but they continued their charges against evil rulers.

12. The end of it was that two of the ministers were driven from power, and Alice Perrers and other evil persons about the king were sent away. The Commons then demanded that Parliament should meet every year, and they put forth many other claims for good rule and the removal of abuses.

RICHARD II.

1. On the death of Edward III. in 1377, the young son of the Black Prince (who had died the year before) came to the throne as Richard II.

2. John of Gaunt had come back into power, and undone much of the work of the Good Parliament. In spite of this, the Commons had felt and shown

their force, and in future times the example thus given had great weight for the good of England.

3. Early in the new reign came the rising up of the class of labourers known as the *Peasant Revolt*. The feeling of this class in that age is shown to us in a poem called *The Vision of William concerning Piers the Plowman*, written by William Langland. The writer was a clergyman or clerk, as the name then was, of the poorer and lower class in London.

4. He dwells with a kind of despair on the wretched life of the poor, and the wrong-doing of the rich. He warns the land-owner that, in heaven, the poor peasant may be set higher than he. He tells the poor peasant, that by work alone can he keep off hunger. He tells the church, that a good life is better than all the favour of the priests, and that God alone can pardon sin.

5. The state of the poor had become worse after the Black Death, through new laws which the land-owners had caused to be made. The *Statute of Labourers*, and other laws, lowered the rate of wages, and brought the poor country folk almost down to the level of slaves. Over much of England they rose in arms. In the eastern counties, and from Kent as far as Devon, great mobs of peasants took the field.

6. From two sides the men of Essex and the men of Kent marched on London. They made their way into the town, took the Archbishop of Canterbury prisoner and beheaded him, as well as other men in power, and burnt John of Gaunt's palace in the Strand, called The Savoy.

7. The young king came to them, and by promises caused them to go off home. He then raised an army, put the people to death by thousands, and left them worse off than before.

8. In 1389, in his twenty-fourth year, Richard began to govern for himself, and took power out of the hands of his uncle, the Duke of Gloucester. For some time he did well, but in the end he came to ruin through his own pride and tyranny. In many different ways he broke the laws which he had promised to keep, and turned against him every class of his subjects.

9. He had ill-used, beyond others, Henry of Lancaster, eldest son of John of Gaunt. This man resolved to try for the throne himself. He had been banished by Richard, and in 1399 he landed with a small force on the coast of Yorkshire. The king was away in Ireland. The great nobles joined the rebel and invader, and Richard found himself helpless.

10. He was taken prisoner in Wales, brought before Parliament in Westminster Hall, and there and then dethroned. The crown was claimed by Henry of Lancaster, who became king as Henry IV. Richard died either by famine or violence in Pomfret Castle, Yorkshire.

11. The reign of Richard II. is famous in the history of English literature, for the work of two great men, the one a writer of verse, the other of prose. The writer of verse was Geoffrey Chaucer, the first great English poet. He was born about 1340, his father being a rich London merchant.

In his youth he was a page at the court. He was afterwards sent abroad on important affairs in the service of Edward III. He was well read in French and Italian, and his early writings borrow largely from works in those two tongues. But Chaucer's greatest work was his poem, the *Canterbury Tales*, which is thoroughly English in tone.

THE "CANTERBURY TALES."

1. In the *Canterbury Tales*, it is told how a party of pilgrims, intending to ride to the tomb of Saint Thomas (Becket) of Canterbury, gathers at one of the inns on the Southwark side of London Bridge. The inn whence Chaucer's party starts is called the "Tabard," having its name and sign from the sleeveless coat once worn by labouring men. A few years ago there stood on the same spot as the "Tabard" of Chaucer's day a tavern called the "Talbot."

2. The pilgrims, including the poet, number thirty-one, and have among them persons of nearly all classes of English society.

3. A knight is there with his son, and a farmer is their attendant. Then come a prioress, or lady at the head of a nunnery, with a nun as her companion, and three priests to look after the nuns. Next we have a monk and a friar, one of the class described before under the reign of Henry III.

4. Then we find a merchant, an Oxford clerk or clergyman, a sergeant-at-law, and a franklin, or holder of land by tenancy under the crown. Then

come men of the different trades of the day. Here we have described a haberdasher, or seller of small drapery goods, a carpenter, a weaver, a dyer, and a maker of tapestry, or hangings in wool and silk worked in carpet patterns.

5. In the company also are found a London cook, a sailor, a doctor of physic, a lady from Bath, a poor town parson, a ploughman, and a reeve, or lord's steward or overseer. Then come a miller, a somp-nour, or man who summons offenders before the church-courts, and a pardoner, or dealer in pardons brought from Rome.

6. Then comes a manciple of one of the Inns of Court, or bodies of lawyers, in London. This person was a kind of house-steward, a man who bought provisions for the use of the body of gentlemen who employed him.

7. The mixed gathering closes with the poet Chaucer himself, and Henry Bailly the host, or man that kept the inn. After a good supper, the host proposes that each pilgrim should tell two tales on the way as they ride to Canterbury, and two more on the way home.

8. The one whose tales were thought to be the most amusing was to have a supper at the cost of the others, in that same room of the "Tabard," when they returned together. To this all agree, and the host is made their guide on the road, and judge and ruler in the telling of the tales.

9. This great work of the poet is left unfinished, but twenty-four tales are given, two of them in prose. In these we have a number of pictures of

middle-class English life during the fourteenth century. The beauty, power, and skill of these paintings done in words are such as fully warrant the title given to Chaucer of "Father of English Poetry."

JOHN WYCLIF.—HENRY IV.

1. The other great man of the age of Richard III. was John Wyclif, a priest of great ability, both as a man of learning and a man of action, who became Master of Balliol College, Oxford. He has been called "The Morning Star of the Reformation," meaning, the leader towards the change which afterwards took place in the Church of England under Henry VIII. and Edward VI.

2. He spoke strongly against the powers claimed by the pope over the English and other churches. He also said that the Gospel alone was enough as a rule of life for any Christian.

3. Wyclif wrote countless tracts in English to teach his views to the mass of the people. In rough, clear, and homely words, which every ploughman and weaver could follow, he spoke against all that he thought wrong in the teaching and doing of the church and those who obeyed her.

4. The Bible, he said, was the one ground of faith, and every man who could read it should do so for himself. By the style of his English writings Wyclif has gained a right to the name of the "Father of English Prose." His great work was that of the translation of the Bible into English.

5. The people of England could thus read, for the first time, the Word of God in their own tongue. The followers of Wyclif were called Lollards, a word which seems to mean "idle babblers," and was a nickname given them by those who held with the old faith of the church. They were often ill-treated, and sometimes put to death, in the times that came just after Wyclif.

6. Henry IV., as we have already shown, was son of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, one of the sons of Edward III. In him the house of Lancaster came to the throne. Henry had some trouble with those who rose in arms against his rule, but all were put down at last.

7. The famous Henry Percy, called Hotspur, a son of the Earl of Northumberland, was defeated and slain in the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. The Welsh were in arms for some years under a chief named Owen Glendower, but the king's brave son Henry, Prince of Wales, beat them again and again, and drove Glendower back to the mountains of Wales.

8. The chief event of this reign was the passing of a bad law, called the *Statute of Heretics*, in 1401. It was directed against the Lollards, and gave the power to burn to death all those whom the rulers of the church convicted of false doctrine, or heresy.

9. This wicked and foolish law was not allowed to be idle. A parish priest at Lynn, in Norfolk, named William Sautre, was its first victim.

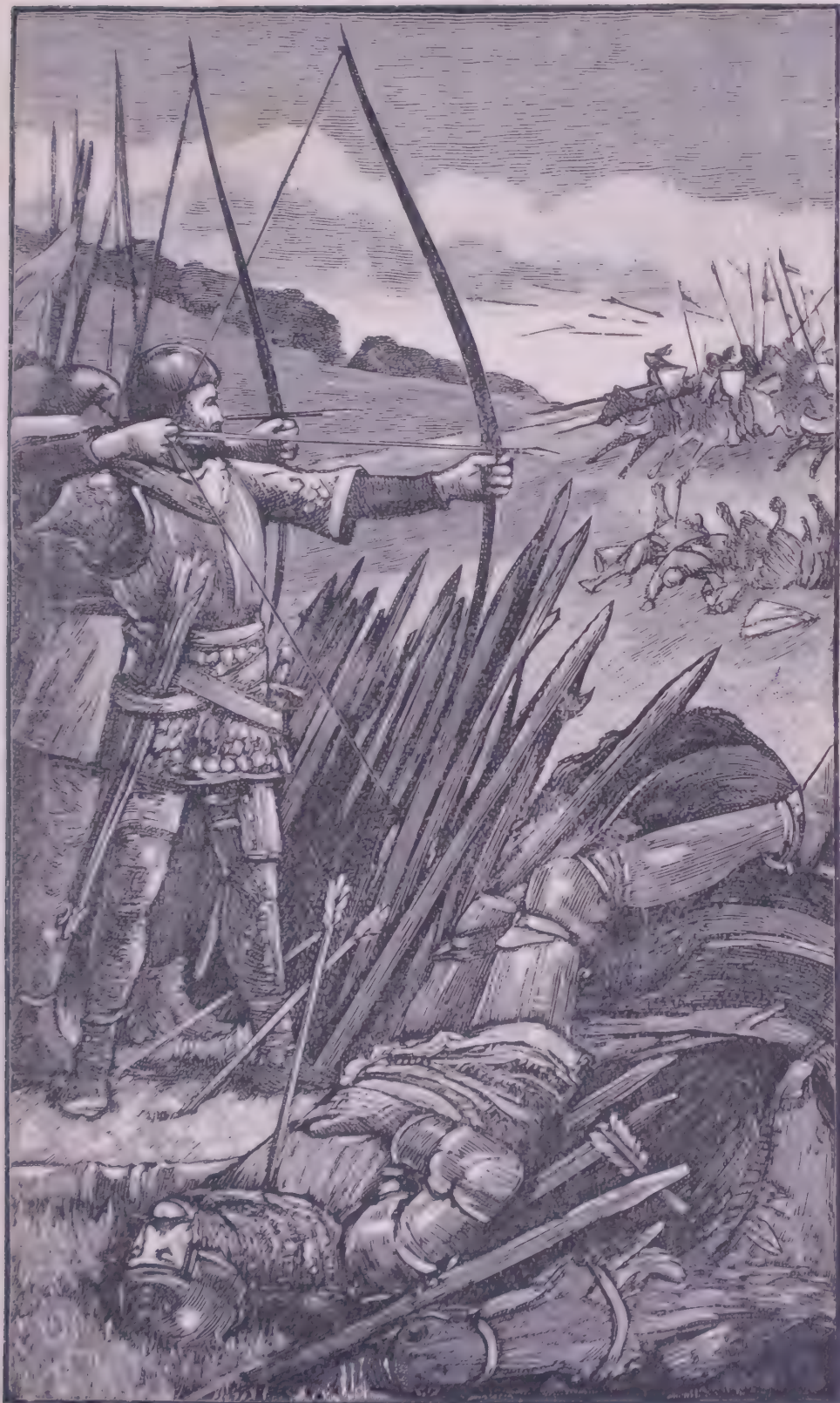
HENRY V.

1. Henry V. became king in 1413, and had a short, but what some call a glorious reign. He had some trouble with the Lollards. Their leader, Lord Cobham, was a close friend of the king, who tried to save him from the fury of the bishops. But Cobham's boldness was such that Henry was forced to arrest him and put him a prisoner in the Tower of London. Thence he made his escape, and the Lollards took up arms, but were dispersed by the royal troops.

2. Cobham was at large for four years. He was then taken, and burnt as a heretic, or denier of the faith of the church. With his death the strength of the Lollards, both in civil and religious affairs, came to an end.

3. The "glory" of Henry's reign began in the renewal of the old quarrel with France. The king was a brave and skilful soldier, and had all that could charm the eye and gain the hearts of the people whom he ruled and the men whom he led to battle. His face was handsome, his body tall and graceful, his manner and speech winning. In 1415 he took a large army to France, and won the great battle of Agincourt, in the north, not far from the field of Creçy.

4. With an army of less than ten thousand men he routed a French force of six times the number. The skill of Henry in drawing up his troops, and the well-aimed showers of arrows from the English



The Battle of Agincourt.

archers, were the chief causes of this wonderful feat of arms. The French were at war with each other, and could not resist such a foe as Henry.

5. By the Treaty of Troyes, made in 1420, France, for the first and last time in her history, was laid helpless at the feet of an English king. Henry married the French ruler's daughter Katharine, and it was settled that, on the death of her father, Charles VI. of France, he was himself to have the French throne.

6. In 1421 a son and heir was born at Windsor, and the king's glory and happiness seemed to be complete. But, as the proverb truly says, "Man proposes and God disposes." Before another year was gone Henry lay in his tomb at Westminster, having died near Paris.

7. The elder of Henry's brothers, the Duke of Bedford, became ruler of France, and a younger brother, the Duke of Gloucester, had charge of affairs in England. Henry's widow, Katharine, married a Welsh gentleman named Sir Owen Tudor. The elder son of this marriage became Earl of Richmond, father of Henry VII., the first of our Tudor kings.

HENRY VI.

1. The reign of Henry VI., who came to the throne as an infant in 1422, is one of the most dreary and shameful in our annals. In the history of English freedom a black mark must be set against this evil time.

2. The power of the House of Commons sank lower and lower. From various causes, the number of voters in towns who chose members of Parliament became at last so small as to give the body of the people no voice in public affairs. Then a law was made in 1430 which took away the right of voting for county members from all except men who had land of their own to the value of forty shillings rent a year.

3. This sum was equal in our money to at least twenty pounds. By this means most of the voters lost their right of choosing men to rule the state, and only the well-to-do retained any political power.

4. The English rule in France was wholly lost, except in the single town of Calais, before the end of the reign. This result was largely due to the wonderful woman called Jeanne Darc, Joan of Arc, or the *Maid of Orleans*, who, in 1429, defeated the English army that was trying to take that town.

5. Joan was a country girl who believed herself, and was believed by others, to be sent by Heaven to deliver France from the English. The French troops fought better, and the English troops worse, from the hope aroused on the one side, and the fear caused on the other.

6. The French thought that God was with the girl, who led them on to battle sword in hand and clad in armour. The English held that she was helped by sorcery, or the power of evil commonly called witchcraft. By the year 1453 the English had lost all but Calais. Thus ended the efforts to make English kings masters of France.

7. In affairs at home, in the time of this sixth Henry, things were also bad. The king was always weak in mind, and was much fitter to live as a pious monk than to rule a land like England in stormy times. He loved and helped the cause of learning, and is best known thus as the founder of Eton College. He was gentle and harmless, and had nothing in him of the soldier or the statesman.

8. His famous queen, Margaret of Anjou, was the ablest woman of her time, and one of the most daring and remarkable women in all history. From the time she became his wife she ruled him as she pleased. It is only fair to say that she always did the best she could for the rights of the king, herself, and their son.

HENRY VI.—EDWARD IV.

1. The dreadful struggle known as the Wars of the Roses must now be shortly dealt with. The name comes from the badges or signs used by the two parties, a white rose for York, and a red rose for Lancaster. Richard, Duke of York, came on his father's side from the fifth son of Edward III., and, through his mother, from the third son of the same king.

2. He and his friends held that he had a better right to the crown than the Lancastrian king, who came from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, who was fourth son of Edward III. The Lancaster party replied to this, that Henry IV. was made



Map to illustrate the Wars of the Roses.

king by Parliament, the supreme power in the state for such matters.

3. Besides this, the Lancaster kings had held the throne for sixty years, and their party said that this gave them the right to retain their power. The Wars of the Roses were thus a fight for the crown between two royal houses or families that claimed it, and the parties of nobles on each side.

4. Many battles were fought, and the greatest cruelty was practised. Not only was no quarter shown on the field of battle itself, but the noble prisoners taken were put to death in cold blood when the fighting was all over. The result was that, in this wicked contest, most of the old nobles of England were swept away.

5. The Duke of York fell at the battle of Wakefield in 1460, but his cause was then taken up by his son Edward, a very brave and able youth. He had such success that in 1461 he became king as Edward IV.; and Henry VI. was dethroned.

6. The great battle of Towton, in Yorkshire, settled matters for some years in favour of the Yorkists. Margaret, with Henry and their young son Edward, fled for refuge to Scotland.

7. For a few months, in 1470, Henry was restored again, and then, in 1471, Edward finally mastered the Lancastrians in the battles of Barnet and Tewkesbury. At Barnet, a few miles north of London, the famous Earl of Warwick was killed on the Lancastrian side.

8. At Tewkesbury the army of Margaret was routed, and her son was killed in the battle or pur-

suit. Three weeks later the unhappy Henry VI., already a prisoner in the Tower, was murdered there, most likely by the hand of King Edward's brother, Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

9. With Edward IV., there began in 1461 a system of rule in England which lasted, in a harsher or milder form, for over a hundred years. It is known as "the New Monarchy," because the kings, for a long time, had much more power in their hands than they had held since the Norman times. Many of the rights gained by the people under the Edwards were set aside under the Tudors.

10. The Wars of the Roses had swept away the nobles, and the power by which they had held the kings in check. The middle class had not yet risen so far as to be great in numbers, wealth, and force. The only means by which the power of the kings could be curbed was the wrath of the mass of the people if they rose up in arms.

11. Thus it was that Parliament was overruled by the crown, and that the will of the king and the royal council had the force of law. Unlawful taxes were laid on the people, and those who set themselves up against the royal will were, without law, put in prison or brought to the headsman's block. The king alone had power sufficient to keep order, and so the nation gave way to a certain amount of tyranny for the sake of peace in the land.

12. The one great event of the reign of Edward IV. was the bringing into England of the art of printing. In 1477 William Caxton, who had learnt his

work in Germany, set up at Westminster the first printing-press seen in England. This great man sent forth many books written by himself and others, and from that time books began to be cheap and to come into the hands of the people at large.

EDWARD V.—RICHARD III.

1. In 1483 Edward IV. died. Some years before, he had put to death for treason his brother, the Duke of Clarence. There was another brother of Edward's, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, a very bold and able man. The heir to the throne was the young prince Edward, thirteen years of age. His uncle Richard was minded to become king himself, and in a few weeks' time he seized the young king and put him in the Tower of London.

2. At first he treated him as king, and caused himself to be named Protector of England by a council of lords and citizens of London. Then he persuaded the queen to give up the other young prince, Richard, a lad of ten, and placed him in the Tower along with his brother.

3. The next step was to get up a story that the queen had not been really the wife of Edward IV., because he had been married before, and his real wife was still living when he married his queen. There was no truth in this, but it gave an excuse for a body of lords and citizens, who favoured the Duke of Gloucester, to offer him the crown in the name of the nation.

4. Richard pretended to be very loth to take it, but gave way to their wishes, and was crowned king at Westminster Abbey, as Richard III. Then it was given out that both the young princes had died in the Tower. Few people have ever doubted that they were put to death there by their wicked uncle's order.

5. In 1674 the bones of two young boys, of about the same age as the princes, were found in the Tower, buried at the foot of a staircase. It seemed so clear that these must be the remains of the young Edward and Richard, that Charles II. had the bones buried in the spot where they now lie in Westminster Abbey.

6. The supporters of the House of Lancaster, and many of the Yorkists also, now resolved to get rid, if they could, of the king whom they regarded as a murderer and usurper. Henry Tudor, the young Earl of Richmond, was then the head of the Lancastrian party. On his mother's side he was descended from John of Gaunt, son of Edward III., and was son of a Welsh noble named Edmund Tudor.

7. It was settled that the young earl should marry the Princess Elizabeth of York, eldest daughter of Edward IV. By the death of her two brothers in the Tower this lady was now Yorkist heir to the throne. The marriage would join the rights of the two royal branches of descent from Edward III., and a large party was formed to support the claim of Richmond. In August, 1485, Richmond landed at Milford Haven in South Wales. He soon had a large force in arms, and with this he fought and

defeated Richard III. at the battle of Bosworth in Leicestershire. Richard was killed in the struggle.

8. Thus the last battle of the shameful civil war had ended in the victory of the Red Rose of Lancaster. The body of the last king of the Plantagenet line was flung on a horse's back and carried into Leicester. Richard had gone into battle with a crown on his helmet, and that crown was placed on the head of Richmond, who wore it on the battlefield amid the joyous shouts of his soldiers.

HENRY VII.

1. The Earl of Richmond now became king as Henry VII., the first of the Tudor line. He was a very able and crafty man, whose chief aims in ruling were to keep peace at home and abroad, and to amass a large royal treasure. With this money in hand he would be able, as he thought, to do without a Parliament. In fact that body was only twice called together during the last thirteen years of his reign.

2. The royal power was shown in the doings of a part of the king's council known as the *Court of Star Chamber*. The judges of this court became infamous in this and other Tudor reigns for their unjust and cruel acts. In violation of the Great Charter they passed sentence on men untried by their peers, or equals, and took large sums of money from the rich, as fines for offences which were either very small or had not been committed at all.

3. Two judges named Empson and Dudley were the chief instruments of Henry's tyranny. They had no regard either for law or justice, and by every base means they wrung money from the wealthy to add to the stores of the king.

One of the first acts of Henry's son and successor was to put these men to death on a charge of high treason.

4. The reign of Henry VII. is held to be the beginning of modern history. In his time Europe began to pass through changes greater than any it had seen for a thousand years. A flood of new light came into the minds of men. Columbus of Genoa sailed across the Atlantic in 1492, and found in the West Indies the New World of America.

5. Great sea-captains, too, from Portugal made their way round the Cape of Good Hope to India. In 1497 a mariner of Venice, named John Cabot, was sent by Henry on a voyage of discovery. He set out from Bristol, and sighted the coast of Labrador. He was thus the first navigator to reach the mainland of North America.

6. In the reign of Henry VIII., the son of Henry VII., the great Polish astronomer Copernicus made known to men much of the truth as to the earth and the heavenly bodies. He proved that the sun is a fixed body, and does not move, as it seems to the eye to do, and that the earth and other planets move round the sun in definite periods of time.

7. The art of printing had put books into the hands of all who longed to learn the lessons of wisdom from the great writers of the past. The

taking of Constantinople by the Turks in 1453 had driven its Greek scholars in flight to the shores of



Cabot's Ship in the Ice off Newfoundland.

Italy. These men took with them written copies of the works of the old Greek writers, and printing soon spread abroad the thoughts of the famous men of ancient Greece and Rome. This was the "new

learning" which, in the reign of Henry VII., began to be taught at Oxford.

8. One of the chief results of this new light of learning was that, for the first time, men began to read the New Testament in the Greek, the language in which it was originally written. A Dutchman named Erasmus was one of the best Greek scholars of the time. In the reign of Henry VIII. he became in turn professor or teacher of that tongue at Oxford and at Cambridge, and it was he who did most for the study of the Gospels in Greek. Thus the learning which once had belonged to the few was now reaching the many.

HENRY VIII.

1. In 1502 a marriage took place which was of much importance in our history. The king's eldest daughter, Margaret, was wedded to James IV. of Scotland, and this union afterwards gave to the English throne the Scottish and German lines of kings in the houses of Stuart and Hanover.

2. Henry VII.'s eldest son, Arthur, died in the king's lifetime, leaving as widow a young Spanish princess, Katharine of Aragon. The second son, Henry, came to the throne, on the king's death, in 1509, and married his brother's widow.

3. Henry VIII. was a strong, handsome, active, lively, and clever youth, of eighteen years of age, when he came to the throne of England. He was much liked by the mass of the people, from what

they saw, and heard of his free and open speech and manners.

4. But to those who were high in place and near the throne, to the nobles of his court, and the ministers who managed affairs, he soon became a person to be feared rather than loved. As time went on, his two great faults made him a tyrant. These faults were self-love and self-will.

5. It was not possible to turn him from a purpose once formed. In serving his royal will and pleasure he cared nothing for justice and mercy. To offend his pride and to hinder his wishes were sure to lead to ruin. After years of faithful work, a man who served Henry might become the victim of his anger, and find his only reward in beggary, or at the block on Tower Hill.

6. In the earlier part of the reign the chief minister was the famous Cardinal Wolsey. He was of low birth, but had great talents, and rose by his own merits as a man of business, and by his cleverness as a courtier, to the height of power in affairs both of church and state. He became Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor, and showed his love of learning in founding the college of Christ Church at Oxford.

7. In one point Henry can fairly claim our respect. He was the founder of the modern navy of England. One of the ships which he built, the *Henry Grace de Dieu*, was the most powerful war-vessel seen up to that time.

8. It was he also who set up the first Navy Office, or Admiralty, to take charge of the ships of war

and the sailors of the royal navy. He also started dockyards at Deptford, Woolwich, and Portsmouth. For the good of ships of war and merchant vessels alike, he formed in 1513 the body of men skilled in marine affairs who are called the *Brethren of the Trinity House*.

9. This office has since that time done much good service, as it still does, in erecting beacons and light-houses; picking out fit men as pilots to steer ships amid the dangers of our coasts and river-mouths; framing laws for shipping; and placing the marks called buoys over sand-banks and sunken rocks.

10. Of foreign war there was little in Henry's reign. Some useless and costly fighting took place against France. This war brought into the field the old French ally, Scotland; and Henry's brother-in-law, James IV., invaded England in 1513 with a large army. He was met by an English force at Flodden, in Northumberland, below the Cheviot Hills.

11. The Scots there suffered the worst defeat in their history. Before the day was done thousands of them, and all their best and bravest nobles, lay dead upon the field. James IV. himself was among the slain, leaving a son of two years old, afterwards James V.

12. Towards the end of Henry's reign, this young king, seeking revenge on England, was defeated at Solway Moss in 1542. He died of grief and shame soon after the battle, leaving a baby daughter, of whom we shall hear again. She became, when she grew up, the famous Mary Stuart, "Queen of Scots."

HENRY VIII. (*Continued*).

1. We now come to an event in the reign of Henry VIII., by far the most important, because it was the first step towards the change of religion in England, known as the Reformation. In 1527 Henry formed the wish to get rid of his wife and queen, Katharine of Aragon. All their children but one had died young, and this one was a daughter, the Princess Mary, afterwards queen.

2. Henry wished for a son to come after him on the throne, and it was not likely that the queen would have any more children. Besides this, the king had already cast his eyes on the queen's beautiful maid of honour, Anne Boleyn. Henry applied to the pope to grant him a divorce from Katharine, on the ground that he ought never to have married his brother's widow.

3. To this the pope would not agree. Henry suspected that Wolsey had secretly opposed his wishes in the matter, and sent him away in disgrace in 1529. Wolsey died in the following year. The good and great Sir Thomas More took his place as chancellor.

4. A very able man named Thomas Cromwell became at this time chief minister in affairs of state, and Thomas Cranmer was made, in 1533, Archbishop of Canterbury. These two men did very much to help forward the change of faith from Catholic to Protestant.

5. The king defied the pope, and got Cranmer to

declare the marriage with Katharine null and void. Henry was already married in private to Anne Boleyn, and in 1533 he made the marriage public,



Henry VIII. sends Wolsey away from Court.

and had her crowned queen at Westminster Abbey. A few months after this the Princess Elizabeth, who became the great queen, was born.

6. In 1534 an act of Parliament declared the King of England to be "the only supreme head in earth

of the Church of England." For denying this right and title to Henry, Sir Thomas More and the good Bishop Fisher of Rochester were beheaded.

7. Then the king attacked the monasteries, and took away all the lands and goods belonging to them. The lands were given as estates to Henry's favoured nobles. The people did not like this at all. They felt much the loss of the good which was done by the monks.

8. No law then existed for giving relief to the poor, and they much missed the alms, food, and medicine which had been freely given at every convent and monastery in the land. In 1536 a great rising took place in the north. The Archbishop of York and many nobles were on the side of the rebels, who at first were successful, taking the towns of York and Hull. But the king's general, the Duke of Norfolk, soon put them down, and the matter ended with the usual cutting off of heads at Tower Hill.

9. In 1536, Anne Boleyn was beheaded on a charge of high treason. On the day after her death the king married the queen's lady-in-waiting, Jane Seymour. In the next year she died, leaving an infant son, afterwards king as Edward VI.

10. Three other wives were afterwards married by Henry, who has been funnily described as "the great widower." One of them, Anne of Cleves, was divorced in 1540, and in the same year the king beheaded Cromwell for having led him to marry her.

11. In 1542 he beheaded his fifth wife, Katharine Howard, on a charge of misconduct. His sixth and

last wife, Katharine Parr, was a good and wise woman, and managed both to keep her head on her shoulders and to retain her place as queen.

12. In 1536 the first printed English Bible was allowed to appear, and a copy was placed, by royal order, in all parish churches. The people used to go at different times of the day to hear the Word of God read aloud. Henry himself always believed much of the Roman Catholic doctrine, and in 1539 a severe law was passed against those who denied it.

EDWARD VI.—MARY I.—ELIZABETH.

1. When the king died in 1547, his son Edward, who was then nine years of age, came to the throne. Under him the change of religion in England was made almost complete by the work of Cranmer as a churchman, and of the Duke of Somerset (Protector or Regent for the boy-king) as a statesman. The Book of Common Prayer became almost what it is now, and the Articles of Religion, printed at the end of the Prayer Book, declared the chief points of the new Protestant faith.

2. In 1553, Edward VI., always weak in health, died at Greenwich, and the next ruler was Mary I., daughter of Katharine of Aragon. A foolish and wicked attempt was made by the Duke of Northumberland to secure the crown for his daughter-in-law, Lady Jane Grey. The rising was soon put down, and the duke was at once beheaded for treason.

3. Lady Jane died, by the headsman's hand, at the Tower in 1554, after another foolish rising against Mary, headed by Sir Thomas Wyatt. The new queen, married to Philip II. of Spain, was a strict follower of the pope in matters of faith. The Catholic religion was restored, and the wicked law of Henry IV.'s reign was now used to put down the Protestants.

4. Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester, was Mary's chief minister, and he and Bonner, Bishop of London, carried the law into effect. Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, was burnt to death at Oxford. Hooper, Bishop of Gloucester, died there in the flames. Ridley, Bishop of London, and Latimer, Bishop of Worcester, were chained back to back at the same stake at Oxford. Many other people were burned to death at Smithfield, in London, because they would not give up their Protestant faith.

5. In 1558, the year of Mary's death, Calais was retaken by the French, and we thus happily lost our last hold on France.

6. Queen Elizabeth was one of the ablest rulers that England ever had. When she came to the throne, she had to face a very hard task, but she did her duty well, and in her forty-five years of power she did very great service to the country. She had strength of will, courage, and confidence, and a real love for those whom she ruled. She was, like all the Tudors, fond of power, but she was wise enough to know when it was time to give way to the wishes and demands of Parliament and people.

7. She thus kept her place firmly on the throne,

and was always greatly esteemed by the nation. Much of the success of her reign is due to the able men whom she chose as her chief advisers and ministers. Among these we may name William Cecil, whom she made Lord Burleigh, Sir Francis Walsingham, and Burleigh's second son, Robert Cecil, afterwards Earl of Salisbury.

8. The great aim of Elizabeth was to keep peace at home and abroad, in order that England might have time to recover from past troubles, and to become a strong and united nation. In religious affairs Elizabeth strove to maintain the Protestant faith, and under her the Church of England became what it is now.

9. In this work she was much helped by the wisdom and prudence of Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury. The right of men to religious freedom was at that time understood by few, and the queen, by an *Act of Uniformity*, forced all ministers of religion to use only the church-service. A body of men, forming the *Court of High Commission*, was set up to inquire into and punish all offences against this law, and many people were put to death in Elizabeth's reign for their religion.

10. This bore hardly on two classes. The Catholics could not join in the worship of the Reformed Church, and were forced either to leave the country or bear ill-treatment at home. There was also a class of extreme Protestants called, in mockery, Puritans, because they claimed to have a purer belief and form of worship than those of the Church of England.

11. The Puritans were very strict both in matters of church-service and of common life. They called it a popish practice for ministers to wear the white surplice, or use the sign of the cross in baptism. They thought it wrong to see a stage-play, to hunt the fox or the hare, to dance round the maypole, and to eat mince-pies at Christmas.

12. Notwithstanding these notions, the Puritans had much in their minds and hearts that was of great value to the English nation, of whom they formed, at that time, an ever-growing part. They feared God so much that they cared nothing for man, or all that man could do to them.

13. In matters of state they proved themselves to be, in the coming time of Stuart tyranny, a brave, wise, honest, and useful body of citizens. To their fearless defiance of false and cruel kings, to their facing of death on fields of civil strife, and to their high standard of right and wrong, England at this day largely owes her freedom, morality, and liberty in matters of religion.

ELIZABETH (*Continued*).

PHILIP II. OF SPAIN—MARY STUART.

1. The great Tudor queen was firmly seated in power at home, through the place she held in the hearts of most of her subjects. But she had powerful foes abroad, and to deal with them she used the utmost watchfulness, skill, and even deceit. On the continent of Europe the followers of the two

branches of the Christian religion, the Catholic and the Protestant, were at open war.

2. A civil war was raging in France, and Philip II. of Spain was trying to force his revolted subjects in the Netherlands back to the old faith. Those of the northern provinces, now the country called Holland, had for the most part become Protestant, and they looked up to Elizabeth as the head of the new religion.

3. Philip was first angered against the English queen by her refusal to marry him. He had hoped to make her a Catholic again, and with her at his side, and England and Spain at his feet, to become master of the world. He was by far the most powerful monarch of the age.

4. In Europe, he had Spain, Portugal, parts of the east and south of France, the Netherlands, Sicily, and much of Italy. In Asia, he possessed the Philippine Islands, rich settlements on the coast of India, and the Spice Islands. In America, Mexico and Peru enriched him with the silver of their mines. His yearly revenue was about ten times that which England brought in to Elizabeth.

5. His army was the largest and the best in the world, for the training of the soldiers and the skill of the generals. He had a large and mighty fleet of vessels, some moved by sails, and some by oars like the great galleys of old Greece and Rome. Among rulers of modern times he is the only one who has ever been at the same moment supreme both on land and on sea.

6. The power which, for some years, Philip held in

Europe, was even higher than that which, in later days, belonged to Napoleon I. He had what Bonaparte longed for in vain—ships, colonies, and trade—the commerce of America and of the Indian seas, the gold and silver of the western, and the spices of the eastern world.

7. Such was the man, and such the power, which England, breathing again after civil and religious strife, was ready to defy under the rule of Elizabeth. Another danger to England was found in the Queen of Scotland. Mary Stuart and her friends claimed for her the throne of England.

8. They said that Elizabeth was not the lawful heir, because her father Henry had no right to divorce his first wife Katharine, and so was not properly married to Elizabeth's mother, Anne Boleyn. If that view were the true one, Mary Stuart, by her descent from Henry VII., was the rightful queen of England.

9. In 1568, after many troubles with her subjects, of whom many were now Protestants, Mary was driven out of Scotland, and fled for refuge to England. She was a strict Catholic, and, during the remaining nineteen years of her life, she became the centre of plots against the throne and person of the English queen. Both France and Spain in secret helped her cause. In 1570 the pope, Pius V., sent forth a document called a "bull," in which he ordered Elizabeth's subjects to depose their queen.

10. The Duke of Norfolk had already formed a plan for himself marrying Mary Stuart, and had been sent as a prisoner to the Tower. He was soon afterwards set free, on a promise to give up all



Elizabeth signing the Death-warrant of Mary.

thoughts of Mary. But in 1572 he joined in a plot for a Spanish invasion to set Mary on the English throne, and was tried for treason and beheaded.

11 At last, in 1586, a plot, headed by a Derbyshire gentleman named Babington, was formed to murder Elizabeth and her chief ministers. A rising was then to take place in England, and Mary was to be made queen. Now Elizabeth's chance had come for a deadly blow at her rival. The spies of Walsingham, the secretary of state, found out all the plan, and Babington and others were put to death.

12. Then Mary was put on her trial as a sharer in the plot, and her accusers brought forward copies of letters said to have been written by her. What the real truth was cannot now be known. What is certain is, that in February, 1587, she was beheaded, by Elizabeth's warrant, at Fotheringhay Castle, in Northamptonshire.

ELIZABETH (*Continued*).

THE ARMADA—PROGRESS UNDER ELIZABETH.

1. Philip of Spain had long been preparing a war of revenge on England. The daring seamen of Elizabeth, led by such men as Francis Drake, Hawkins, Davis, Frobisher, and Raleigh, had for years been making a prey of the Spanish trade and settlements, in a way which we should now call piracy.

2. In 1587 Drake went to Spain with a fleet, and, as he called it, "sing'd the King of Spain's beard," by burning over 100 ships in the harbour of Cadiz.

3. In 1588, Philip's great fleet, the Armada, was ready for the attack. A great army was on board, and his famous and able general, the Prince of Parma, had another large force in the Netherlands, ready to cross over when the English and Dutch fleets were driven out of the way.

4. But this is just what the Spaniards failed to do. After a week's fighting in the Channel, and an attack by English fire-ships off Calais, together with some rough handling from the Dutch in the North Sea, the Spanish fleet fled away, to get home to Spain round Scotland.

5. Severe storms came to finish the ruin of the fleet which they had called "Invincible." Thousands of drowned bodies of their sailors and soldiers were cast on the rocky shores of Norway, Scotland, and Ireland; and all danger to England from Spain was for ever at an end.

6. At the close of Elizabeth's reign the conquest of Ireland was completed. The first English hold of that country began under Henry II.; but it had never been really mastered, and constant warfare went on between the natives and the early English settlers; and afterwards between the Anglo-Irish descendants of the early settlers and new-comers from England. The people of Ireland were then, as now, in large part Catholics, and Philip of Spain did what he could to make trouble there for Elizabeth. Philip died in 1598, and in 1602 Lord Mountjoy put down the Irish rebels headed by O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone.

7. The reign of Elizabeth was a time of great pro-

gress and of great men. Tillage and manufactures were much advanced. Under her and Edward VI. many of the great public grammar-schools were founded, and the Bodleian Library at Oxford had its rise.

8. Trade with America, India, Africa, and many parts of Europe poured wealth into the land; and we began to have the great merchant navy which has long been the first in the world. Along with this outward growth, an inward growth of mind and thought was proceeding.

9. Some of the greatest of English writers gave their works, or some of their works, to the world at this time. Sir Walter Raleigh began his *History of the World*. Sir Francis Bacon, Lord Verulam (wrongly called Lord Bacon), wrote the first of his famous *Essays*. Edmund Spenser, one of our chief poets, produced his *Faerie Queen*.

10. Above all, in Elizabeth's age, William Shakespeare, the greatest of English poets, the greatest, as many hold, of all writers in every age of the world, brought out many of his wonderful plays. For truth to nature, depth of wisdom, power of language, and nobility of thought, the works of the "Bard of Avon" have nothing to equal them in any land or tongue.

JAMES I.

1. James I., who began the Stuart line of kings, had been for many years King of Scotland as James VI. He was next heir to the throne by

descent from Henry VII., whose daughter Margaret had married James IV. of Scotland.

2. James was a well-meaning but foolish king, who, through wrong ideas as to royal rights and power, did great harm to the nation for a time, though all ended in good for the cause of English freedom.

3. He had a very high opinion of his own wisdom as a ruler, and had really much learning, and some shrewdness of thought and wit of speech. His conduct in affairs was such that a very clever king of that day, Henry IV. of France, used to speak of him as "the wisest fool in Christendom."

4. James never understood the English people, and was neither loved nor respected by them. Among his worst acts was the treatment given to one of Elizabeth's great men, Sir Walter Raleigh. He was accused of plotting to dethrone the king, and after a most unfair trial was sent a prisoner to the Tower.

5. There he lay for thirteen years in a cell, which is still shown, with his books for his only friends. In 1616 he was set free in order to lead a band of men in search of gold to South America. James himself sent a secret message to the Spaniards, and through their efforts Raleigh's plans failed.

6. In 1618, on the demand of Spain, Raleigh was beheaded for his share in the plot of thirteen years before. This wicked act of injustice was done to please the King of Spain, whose daughter James was wishing to have as wife for his son Charles. The young prince went to Madrid to see the lady,

but it all came to nothing, and in the end he married the French king's sister, Henrietta Maria.

7. Among other events of the reign we may name the famous Gunpowder Plot. A Catholic gentleman named Catesby formed a plan for blowing up the king and the Parliament, when that body met in November, 1605. The chief minister of James at that time was Sir Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury, son of Elizabeth's great statesman Burleigh.

8. Cecil knew all that was going on from one of the men engaged in the plot, and in due time Guy (or Guido) Fawkes was taken prisoner, among his coals and barrels of powder in a cellar under the House of Parliament.

9. The band of plotters fled, and in a fight with their pursuers at a house in Worcestershire one of them was killed and others were maimed by an accidental explosion of powder. Others were taken, tried, and beheaded. One of the cruel and unjust results of this foolish and wicked plot, got up by a few men, was that new and severe laws were passed against the whole body of Catholics.

10. A matter of chief importance in the reign of James is his way of treating the House of Commons, and of training his son Charles for the duties of government.

11. The king fully believed in what was called "divine right." The meaning of this was, that kings had their power, not from peoples, parliaments, or laws, but from God alone, and had to give account of their doings to none but Him. From a king's will there was no appeal, and to a king's power no limit.

12. All that belonged to his people, his subjects, was the duty of doing what they were told to do by him, and of paying whatever sums of money he chose to ask for in taxes. It was not likely that the English nation would yield to demands like these, and the House of Commons from the first stood firmly against them.

13. In some years James called no parliament at all, and broke the laws constantly by taking money in taxes not voted by the Commons. The Star Chamber was set to work to wring money from rich men by means of illegal fines.

JAMES I. (*Continued*).

1. After the death of Cecil in 1612, the king's chief ministers were two worthless men, Robert Carr, Earl of Somerset, and George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.

2. Some men who opposed the king's wishes in and out of Parliament were made to suffer for their boldness in the cause of freedom. Thus, in 1616, the able and famous chief-justice, Sir Edward Coke, lost his high office for maintaining the rights of the subject against the king.

3. In 1621 Sir Edwin Sandys, one of the most active members of the House of Commons, was sent to prison for speaking there in debate against the king's unlawful acts. The only result of such doings by James was that the members of the house became bolder and firmer than before.

4. In 1621, they drew up a strong Protest declaring that the liberties of Parliament are the old birthright of Englishmen. The king then insulted them by sending for the book in which the Protest was written, and tearing out the leaf with his own hand.

5. He also sent to prison Sir Edward Coke, John Pym, and several other members. Wise men could see already what trouble was sure to come on the land when James should be succeeded by a son to whom he had taught his own ideas of a king's rights.

6. One of the last acts of this first Stuart tyrant gave great offence to a nation of strongly Protestant feelings. This was the marriage treaty with France, in which it was arranged that any children born should be brought up by their mother until the age of thirteen. Henrietta Maria was a Catholic princess, and children of her teaching were sure to grow up in the Catholic faith.

7. Before we pass to the reign of Charles I. we must name three matters of interest that took place under James. These have to do with a book, a voyage, and a marriage. In 1611, there was sent forth from the printing-press a book which has proved of the highest value to English religion and literature.

8. This was a new translation, from the Hebrew and Greek, of the Bible, which is still in use. It gives very truly, in the main, the real meaning of the old written words. It puts that meaning into the best and purest English, which has been a model of good writing and speech to countless English people.

9. In 1620 a body of Puritans sailed in a ship called the *Mayflower*, from Plymouth to North



The Pilgrim Fathers disembarking at New Plymouth.

America. Twelve years before this they had been driven out from England by religious persecution, and had fled for refuge to Holland. When they got across the sea, they founded the first of the New

England's colonies. This was the real beginning of the great republic known as the United States.

10. In 1613 the king's eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married a Protestant prince of Germany, the Elector Frederick. This union afterwards brought to our throne the House of Brunswick or Hanover. One of the children of Elizabeth became the wife of the Elector of Hanover, who was also Duke of Brunswick, and their son became George I. of England.

CHARLES I.

1. Charles I., who became king on his father's death in 1625, has been wrongly judged by many English people. The reason for this is the pity aroused by his untimely end. He lost his throne first, and then his life, at the hands of his own subjects, who had been driven to rise against him by his own gross tyranny.

2. His conduct as a king has been excused by many kindly persons, who look with interest and love upon his conduct as a husband and a father. His face and form, as painted for us by Vandyck, are full of grace and beauty, and people wonder how his wicked subjects could have the heart to take up arms against such a king.

3. The truth is, that it is nonsense to talk about a ruler as "a good man but a bad king." The duties of the king are the most important duties of the man. As king, Charles was selfish, false, and cruel; and therefore he was a bad man, however

much he loved his wife and children, however good a taste he had for pictures, and however regular he was in his religious duties.

4. The new king married, in June, 1625, the French princess Henrietta Maria, and was, to the end of his life, a slave to her whom it was his duty to guide, and not to follow and obey. She had been trained at home in a belief of the absolute power of kings, and she did much harm by urging on in evil ways a king who came to the throne with a full trust in "divine right."

5. From the first Charles aroused ill-feeling in the House of Commons and the nation by breaking the law of the land. When the Commons attacked the king's chief minister, the Duke of Buckingham, for misconduct in his office, several members were sent to the Tower.

6. Money was raised by taxes not voted in the Commons, and by forced loans. Seaports were made to supply ships for the navy, and men were made to serve as soldiers and seamen.

7. In 1628 the House of Lords joined the House of Commons in a great and famous act of resistance to this evil-doing. The two Houses presented to the king the document called the *Petition of Right*.

8. In this second great Charter of English freedom it was firmly demanded that no tax or loan of money should be raised by the king without consent of Parliament; and that no man should be imprisoned, deprived of his property, exiled, or in any way punished, except by the law of the land.

9. After setting forth other cases of ill-usage of subjects by the king, the Petition then requires that these evils shall cease. Charles gave his assent to all these demands, but at once proceeded to break his promise by raising money, by means of duties placed on goods at the custom-house, without consent of Parliament.

10. On the death of the Duke of Buckingham (killed by the knife-stab of a private enemy at Portsmouth in August, 1628), Sir Thomas Wentworth became the king's chief minister. This bold, great, and bad man henceforth gave up all his talents and efforts to the support of the king's evil ways of rule.

11. He had for a time been a champion of the cause of freedom in the House of Commons. This was not, as it proved, because he loved his country, but because he hated Buckingham, and wished to overthrow him and take his place in the king's service. He was now made Lord Wentworth, and afterwards Earl of Strafford, by which title he is best known in our history.

12. In July, 1628, another famous supporter of the tyranny of Charles I. became Bishop of London. This was William Laud, the great foe of the Puritans. He held the doctrine of "divine right," and was an earnest persecutor of all who did not agree with the views, and follow the practice, of the Church of England.

CHARLES I. (*Continued*).

THE STAR CHAMBER—COURT OF HIGH COMMISSION.

1. When Parliament met early in 1629, the Commons declared all persons to be enemies of the nation who should support the paying of unlawful taxes. Charles was very angry, and in March he dissolved Parliament, after insulting the Commons by speaking of certain of its members as vipers. This word and other abuse he uttered to the face of both Houses. Several members of the Commons were sent to the Tower, and one of them, Sir John Eliot, died there three years later.

2. And now, in 1629, there began, and for eleven years there lasted, a tyranny in England such as had never been seen under the worst of the Plantagenet or Tudor kings. During all this time no parliament was called, and Charles did what he pleased. All freedom was trampled under foot. The Petition of Right was torn up, as it were, by the king who had agreed to it, and its fragments were flung in the face of an oppressed and insulted people.

3. The plan formed by Charles and Strafford was to keep up despotic rule, by the brute force of a standing army. Strafford was made ruler in Yorkshire and the northern counties, as President of the Council of the North. He made good use of his time there in raising troops, as he also did in Ireland some years later, when he was chief governor there.

4. The two great engines of oppression were the

Court of Star Chamber and the *Court of High Commission*. The Star Chamber punished those who opposed the king in civil matters by heavy fines, imprisonment, flogging, cutting off the ears, slitting the nose, and branding the body with hot irons.

5. The High Commission used the same cruelty towards all Puritans who would not follow the church in religious worship, or who wrote and printed their own opinions. Many of the Puritans fled from England to America, in order to be free to worship God as they pleased. It was they who, during this evil time for England, founded across the sea the colonies of Maryland, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.

6. In 1633 Laud became Archbishop of Canterbury, and made the Court of High Commission more hated by the Puritans than ever. In 1637 the first open resistance to the tyranny of Charles was made. John Hampden, a Buckinghamshire squire, refused to pay the sum of twenty shillings as a tax called "ship-money."

7. This tax had always been a war-tax (and the nation was now at peace), and was raised on sea-ports only, to provide help against an enemy's ships. Besides this the tax was illegal, because it was not voted by the House of Commons.

8. The case was tried in one of the courts of law, and most of the judges decided for the king's right to raise ship-money at his own will and pleasure. It is very important to notice that judges could, at that time, be removed from office by the king.

9. Thus a judge who opposed the king's views ran the risk of ruin, and there were few men brave enough to do that for the sake of their countrymen. By a change of the law made in 1701, judges now hold their office independently of the crown. They cannot be removed during good conduct; and to remove them from office an address to the crown passed by both houses, the Lords and the Commons, is necessary.

CHARLES I. (*Continued*).

THE COVENANT IN SCOTLAND — THE LONG PARLIAMENT.

1. In 1637, Charles and Laud did another bad and foolish thing, in trying to force on Scotland the religious service of the Church of England. A riot arose in St. Giles's Church at Edinburgh, when the minister began to read the printed service, and all Scotland was in a state of excitement.

2. In 1638, Scottish nobles, gentry, ministers, and citizens joined in signing the famous *Covenant*, in which they agreed to help each other in preventing religious changes in Scotland. At the end of the same year, a General Assembly at Glasgow declared that there must be no bishops in Scotland, no High Commission Court, and no liturgy, or printed form of service.

3. Then war arose between England and Scotland, and Charles went to Berwick; but want of money soon forced him to disband his army. At last, in

April, 1640, the king was obliged to call a new Parliament. The Commons would grant him no money in taxes until his evil ways of rule were altered.

4. The king dissolved the Parliament in anger. Then a riot arose in London. The people attacked Laud's palace at Lambeth. Soon after this, a mob forced its way into St. Paul's Cathedral, and drove off in terror the High Commission Court, which never sat again.

5. A Scottish army crossed the Border, defeated the king's troops, and took Durham and Newcastle. Charles, then at York, agreed to discuss matters in London with those whom he had tried to force to carry out his wishes. He then came south to attend a new Parliament, which met at Westminster in November, 1640.

6. This body was the famous *Long Parliament*, during the existence of which the House of Commons ruled the land for nearly thirteen years. It contained many able and strong friends of freedom, amongst whom were John Pym, John Hampden, and Oliver Cromwell. The new members turned at once against the people's enemies.

7. Strafford and Laud were sent to the Tower, and the Puritans, in their turn, began to ill-treat those who practised, in the Church of England, what they called Popery.

8. Stained windows, pictures, altars, crucifixes, monuments, and images in churches were broken up; and the beautiful stone crosses in Cheapside, outside St. Paul's, and at Charing Cross (which are

often named in records of the Tudor times) were now destroyed.

9. In 1641, Lord Strafford was condemned to death by a *Bill of Attuinder*, which passed both houses; and then Charles was so cowardly as to sign the warrant for his execution. He had promised his faithful minister that, if he came to London to help him, "not a hair of his head should be touched." The only remark made upon the king by the betrayed statesman, before his head fell at the block on Tower Hill in May, 1641, was this: "Put not your trust in princes."

10. At the end of the same year twelve of the bishops were sent to the Tower on a charge of treason against the people; and the mobs that gathered round the king's palace at Whitehall clearly showed that great troubles were at hand.

CHARLES I. (*Continued*).

THE REBELLION—CROMWELL.

1. In January, 1642, the king rushed on his fate in the famous matter of the *Five Members*. He went down himself to the House of Commons, with an armed force, to seize Pym, Hampden, and three others. They escaped by water to the City of London, which was then a fortified place, with stout walls and guarded gates, and a force of troops called the "trained-bands."

2. The city was all for freedom's cause against

the king; and when Charles went there the next day, in order to try and settle matters, the people crowded round his coach with angry cries and threats. Charles then left London for Hampton Court, and the Commons brought things to a head by asking him to resign the command of the army.

3. The king flatly refused to give up this legal right, and both sides prepared for war. With Charles went most of the lords, gentry, and clergy, with all their tenants and friends.

4. On the side of the Parliament were a few lords and gentry, the great towns, and many Puritan farmers and their friends. The Commons held London and the Thames, where the chief custom-dues were paid, and they had a great advantage in their power of raising taxes.

5. At first the fighting was in the king's favour. His cavalry was led by his nephew, the brave Prince Rupert, and at the beginning of the war the foot-soldiers of the people's army could not stand against them. But at the first battle of Newbury, in September, 1643, the London trained-bands, pike in hand, showed the firmest courage, and drove back all the daring charges of Rupert's horse.

6. The chief leader in the war had already come to the front. This was Oliver Cromwell, a man of great skill in war, who had raised a powerful body of horse known as Ironsides. They were better armed, trained, and drilled than Rupert's men, and from the time that they drew their swords the victory of the people in the war was sure.

7. In July, 1644, the whole north of England was

in England a prisoner, he would still have been harmless, and, as long as he lived, none other could claim the throne. But at the time of his death his eldest son, Charles, was alive and free on the Continent.

3. The moment the king's head fell on the block, to the horror, it must be said, of the people of London who saw it, Prince Charles became King of England by the law of the land. But for eleven years, from 1649 till 1660, there was no king ruling in England.

4. For most of this time Cromwell was the man in power, having for part of the time the title of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland. He put down all active opposition to his rule. In Ireland, he took towns and slew foes with a success and want of mercy, that the Irish people have never forgotten. To this hour, a native of the south of Ireland knows no more bitter words than crying, "The curse of Cromwell on ye."

5. In September, 1650, Cromwell gained a great victory over the Scots, under Leslie, at the battle of Dunbar. In September, 1651, he defeated, at the battle of Worcester, the young King Charles II. and another Scottish army.

6. After six weeks of wanderings and adventures in England, Charles escaped to France from Shoreham, in Sussex. It was during this time that he is said to have been hidden in an oak-tree, while some of the Parliament's horse were taking shelter from a storm below it. On another occasion he owed

his freedom, and perhaps his life, to his own coolness.

7. He had taken refuge at a farmhouse, where



Escape of King Charles in Disguise.

the people were for the king, and they dressed him as a servant, and set him to attend to some meat roasting before the kitchen fire. This was done

because they knew that the soldiers were in that part of the country looking for him.

8. Some of the soldiers came into the kitchen, and one asked the king "what sort of man Charles Stuart was to look at." Charles Stuart at once replied: "He is a fellow of much my height, for I saw him the other day just before the fight at Worcester."

9. The rule of Cromwell was marked in affairs abroad by great vigour and general success. The English leaders, Blake and Monk, fought hard against the fleets of Holland, and forced the Dutchmen at last to do honour to the English flag by striking (that is *lowering*) topsails to it on the seas.

10. Blake fought also with brilliant courage against the Spanish ships and forts at the Canaries. In 1655 an English admiral took Jamaica from the Spaniards, and that island has ever since been a British possession.

11. In home affairs, amid the strife of parties and bigots, Cromwell had more difficulty and showed to less advantage. Plots of Royalists to kill him forced him always to wear armour, day and night, beneath his clothes, and he was worn out at last by toil, care, and disease. He died of ague on September 3rd, 1658, the very day of the month of his great battles at Dunbar and Worcester.

CHARLES II.

THE RESTORATION.

1. After some feeble efforts to rule the land made by Oliver's son Richard, and many quarrels among parties of republicans, it became clear that the best thing for England was to have a king again. General Monk, who had both army and fleet at his disposal, declared for the king and a free parliament.

2. In May, 1660, Charles came over from Holland, landed at Dover, had a grand progress to London amidst shouting people, flying flags, and ringing bells, and entered his capital on his thirtieth birthday, May 29th.

3. Until recent years this day was kept by school-boys as "Royal Oak-day," on which they wore a sprig of oak in the button-hole, in memory of the escape of Charles, according to the story, after the defeat of Worcester.

4. The reign of Charles II. lasted for twenty-five years, from 1660 to 1685. The nation soon had cause to look back with regret to the rule of Cromwell. Under him there had been a fair amount of freedom at home, and England had been powerful and respected abroad.

5. The new ruler was pleasant in talk and manners, and was always liked by the people of London, to whom he freely showed himself, strolling about in the parks with his favourite dogs and courtiers. In conduct he was a very worthless person, whose chief friends through life were bad men and women.

As a king he, like his father, has been wrongly judged by many people.

6. It is well known that he was at heart a Catholic, and that he strove to restore the old form of religion. He was resolved to do as he liked, so far as he dared, and one of his chief aims was to have plenty of money to spend on his evil pleasures.

7. But one thing above all he was resolved to have—safety for himself and his throne. He had before his eyes his father's fate. He had ever in mind his own painful life in Scotland, Holland, and France, before he came back to his people.

8. In Scotland the bigoted preachers used to revile his mother for her Catholic faith, and his father for his tyranny; and lecture the young king himself in long and wearisome sermons. It was this that made him always say afterwards that the Presbyterian faith was "no religion for a gentleman."

9. He had fully made up his mind, as he used to say, "not to go on his travels again." But few people have given Charles II. credit for the cleverness which he really had, and the close attention which he paid to affairs. He was ever watching the temper of the nation, and keeping a firm control over reckless and evil ministers who would, if let alone, have brought the throne again to ruin.

10. For most of his reign Charles was simply the paid servant of Louis XIV. of France. That powerful king aimed at becoming master of Europe, and gave Charles large sums of money to help his plans so far as he could. It was understood between

them that Charles should, if possible, restore the Roman Catholic faith in England, and Louis undertook, if needful, to help him with an invading army.

11. The spirit and temper of the English people, republicans and royalists, Puritans and Churchmen, country and town alike, were such as to bring to nought the plans of the two kings against the liberties of England. Those who suffered most in this reign were the two classes of people who were opposed to the Church of England.

12. Severe and shameful laws were passed against the Puritans, or Dissenters, and the Catholics. Dissenters, for meeting to worship God in their own way, were made liable to fine, imprisonment, and banishment. No man could hold office in a town as mayor or alderman, or under the crown, in army, navy, or civil service, unless he held the faith of the Church of England.

13. No Catholic was allowed to sit in either House of Parliament, and this foolish law was not repealed till 1829. The king's brother, the Duke of York, was forced to give up the command of the fleet because he was a Catholic. He was well fitted for the work, and had done good service to the nation both ashore, in fitting out ships, and afloat, in fighting the Dutch.

14. The Covenanters in Scotland were so cruelly treated for their religion that they rose in arms, and were only put down after regular battles with the king's troops.

CHARLES II. (*Continued*).HABEAS CORPUS ACT—THE PLAGUE—THE
GREAT FIRE.

1. We have one good law that was passed in the time of Charles II. A clever statesman of the day, the first Earl of Shaftesbury, had turned against the king, and so became eager to save himself from arrest. He managed to pass a law known as the *Habeas Corpus Act*.

2. Its name is taken from the first words of the order, written in Latin, that may be sent by a judge to the governor of a prison where any subject is confined. The writ issued by one of the judges to whom appeal, in case of need, is made on the prisoner's behalf, therefore begins, "You must produce the body," that is, give up the prisoner for trial, before a legal court, upon such charge or charges as may be brought against him.

3. Thus no one can be kept in prison for more than two days without being brought before a court. The accused must know the charge against him, and have the chance of meeting it. This noble statute, still in full force, once for all secured, by rules that cannot be set aside without the authority of Parliament, the personal freedom of all English men and women that obey the law.

4. The early years of the reign were marked by disaster and disgrace. In 1665 a dreadful sickness, brought by ships from the south-east of Europe, came to London. It was there fed by the foul air breathed, and the foul water drunk, in the houses

of that age, when people knew little or nothing of the causes of disease. In a few months more than a hundred thousand people died.

5. The court, and most of those who had means to get away, fled from the town. The streets were empty, trade at a stand-still, and houses and shops shut up. The houses where the plague was found had their doors marked with a red cross. The bell of the men who went about with the dead-carts was sounding day and night in the streets, as they cried to the people, "Bring out your dead."

6. The bodies were buried at last by hundreds in huge pits dug in the fields outside the city walls. In the autumn the plague abated after the death-rate had risen to ten thousand in one week, which was as fearful a number then as a hundred thousand a week would be now.

7. In 1666 a terrible fire swept away a large part of the city of London. The noble Gothic cathedral of Saint Paul's, and eighty-nine churches, with thirteen thousand houses, were consumed.

8. Two hundred thousand people were left for the time without a roof of their own to shelter them, and many thousands were seen dwelling in tents and huts in the fields outside the walls.

CHARLES II. (*Continued*).

THE GREAT FIRE—EVELYN'S DIARY.

1. An interesting writer of the day, in the valuable work known as *Evelyn's Diary*, tells us much of

what he saw during the great fire. The fire began close to the spot where the Monument now stands as a record of the event. The time was the evening of Sunday, September 2nd, and the cause was an overheated oven at the house of the king's baker.

2. The houses were mostly of wood, and in many of those near the river large quantities of oil, tar, and other things that flame fiercely, were stored up in the way of trade. The weather had long been hot, and all the buildings were very dry and ready to catch fire.

3. A strong east wind was blowing, and this drove the flames onwards with a fury that nothing could stop. For three days and nights the fire raged, and was only stayed at last by pulling down and blowing up houses in its path, so that great gaps were left which it could not leap across.

4. Let us now read what Evelyn writes of things he saw in this dreadful time. On September 3rd he tells us: "I went on foot to the same place (Bank-side, in Southwark), and saw the whole south part of the city burning from Cheapside to the Thames, and all along Cornhill, Tower Street, Fenchurch Street, Gracious (that is, *Gracechurch*) Street, and it was now taking hold of Saint Paul's Church.

5. "We saw the Thames covered with goods floating, all the barges and boats laden with what some had time and courage to save. All the sky was of a fiery aspect, like the top of a burning oven, and the light seen above forty miles round about for many nights.

6. "God grant mine eyes may never behold the

like, who now saw above 10,000 houses all in one flame; the noise and cracking and thunder of the flames, the shrieking of women and children, the hurry of people, the fall of towers, houses, and churches, was like a hideous storm.

7. "The air all about was so hot and inflamed that at the last one was not able to approach it, so that they were forced to stand still and let the flames burn on, which they did for near two miles in length and one in breadth. The clouds also of smoke were dismal, and reached many miles in length. Thus I left it this afternoon burning, a resemblance of the last day. . . . London was, but is no more!"

8. On the next day Evelyn writes: "The burning still rages, and it has now got as far as the Inner Temple; all Fleet Street, the Old Bailey, Ludgate Hill, Newgate, Watling Street, now flaming, and most of it reduced to ashes; the stones of St. Paul's flew like 'grenados' (a kind of small bomb-shells, filled with gunpowder, and at that time thrown by hand in battle), the melting lead running down the streets in a stream."

CHARLES II. (*Continued*).

WAR WITH THE DUTCH—TYRANNY OF CHARLES— RYE HOUSE PLOT.

1. At that time we were at war with the Dutch. The king spent most of the money on himself and his wicked court, and the navy had been left to go

to ruin. The seamen were unpaid, and the ships were rotting in harbour. Early in 1667 a Dutch fleet sailed up the Medway, and, finding none to resist them, burnt some ships of war at Chatham.

2. They came up the Thames as far as Tilbury Fort, opposite Gravesend, and then sailed back, after letting the people of London, for the first and last time in English history, hear the thunder of an enemy's cannon. Then people began in wrath to ask themselves whether this could have been done under the rule of Oliver Cromwell.

3. In 1672 Charles put in force a new plan of Stuart tyranny. This was called the *Suspending Power*. As no king of England now claimed to make laws by himself, the next best thing for a tyrant was to claim the right of doing away for a time with any laws that he found in the way of his wishes. This was, in fact, to tear to pieces acts of parliament at pleasure, and to rule with a despotic power. A royal order thus suspended the laws against those who did not agree with the Church of England.

4. The pretence made was a desire to help the Dissenters or Puritans; the real object was to favour the Catholics, and enable the king and his brother James, Duke of York, to go to mass openly and put Catholics in office. In 1673, however, the anger shown in Parliament made the king withdraw the order.

5. As the reign came to an end the evil rule of Charles grew worse. Rights were taken from the towns, and the king was thus enabled to appoint

the mayors and aldermen, and have the power of sending to the House of Commons members who would support him.

6. At last some of the best men in the nation formed a plan for shutting out from the throne the



The Rye House.

king's Catholic brother James, Duke of York, who was the heir. It was intended to raise a force, and make a king of a son of Charles, the Duke of Monmouth, who was a leading Protestant.

7. The chief men in this plot were Monmouth, Lord William Russell, and Algernon Sidney. At the same time, unknown to them, another plot was formed, led by an old soldier of Cromwell's time,

named Rumbold. This was for an attack to be made on Charles and James, on their way back to London from Newmarket races.

8. This is called the Rye House Plot, because the king's coach was to be stopped on the road, near a farm called the Rye House, in Hertfordshire. The plan failed through a fire at the king's lodgings at Newmarket, which caused him to return to London some days before the usual time.

9. The crown lawyers mixed up the two plots, and accused Russell and Sidney of being aware of the plot to murder the king. After a most unfair and disgraceful trial, at which the infamous Judge Jeffreys presided as chief-justice, Russell and Sidney, two of the noblest of all Englishmen, were beheaded as traitors in 1683.

10. Monmouth first fled, then gave himself up and was pardoned, but afterwards banished. In February, 1685, Charles II. died, after an illness of some days, following a fit caused by pressure of blood on the brain.

11. Bad as he was at heart and in life, he kept his good manners to the end, and in his last moments said to those around his bed, that "he was sorry to give so much trouble and be so long in dying."

JAMES II.

TYRANNY OF JAMES—MONMOUTH REBELLION.

1. The king's brother, the Duke of York, then came to the throne as James II. The difference

between him and his brother was this. Charles was a clever tyrant, who kept his throne for twenty-five years, and yet did in many ways pretty much as he pleased.

2. James was dull and stupid, and in less than four years made all classes of his subjects either hate or despise him, till he was driven out of the country without a chance of returning. He lost his throne simply because he would not, or could not see that England was resolved on two things. These were, first, not to have the Roman Catholic faith as the national religion; and, second, only to be governed by fixed rules as to the rights of the people.

3. These were rules which set narrow bounds to the power of the crown, and shut out all the pretensions to "divine right" which James I. had put forth, but dared not carry fully into action. Charles I. had gone further than his father, and thereby lost his crown and his life. Charles II., as we have seen, had held the same opinions, but was too clever to let them bring him into trouble. Now, under James II., the long contest between king and people, which began with John, ended, after nearly five hundred years, in a victory for the rights of the nation. That freedom and that power of law which have made our country what she is now were finally settled.

4. James II., in the council held directly after the death of Charles, declared that he would govern according to the laws, and maintain the Church of England in her rights. This must be kept in mind

if we are fully to understand what is meant by Stuart tyranny, and why a speedy end was made of the last of that evil line of kings.

5. Before a parliament met, James broke the law by raising money in taxes by his own sole order, and openly went to the Roman Catholic worship. For a time he had the nation with him. But a wicked and foolish attempt to gain the throne was made by the Duke of Monmouth. He landed in June, 1685, with a few men, at Lyme, on the coast of Dorset. He then put forth a proclamation, in which he claimed the throne for himself, declaring that his mother, a woman named Lucy Walters, had been duly married to Charles II., his father.

6. This was certainly false, but Monmouth did not stop at that. He made charges against James of the falsest and foulest kind. He said that the fire of London had been caused by him, and that he had poisoned his brother Charles. He wound up by accusing his uncle and king of two other murders.

7. Such a rebel as this, whom the ignorant called the Protestant Duke, deserved to fail, and he did fail. A few thousand ploughmen, artisans, and miners joined him in the West of England, and at first he had some success over the royal forces. Then, in July, at the battle of Sedgemoor, in Somerset, the last battle ever fought on English ground, he was totally defeated by James's troops.

8. Two days later he was caught hiding in a ditch, far from the field of battle, and dressed as a shepherd. After vain and cowardly appeals to the

king for mercy, Monmouth's head fell on the block, at Tower Hill, where so many far nobler victims had met their death.

9. The king and Judge Jeffreys then disgraced themselves by the merciless cruelty shown to the ignorant and hapless followers of the duke. In what was called the Bloody Assize, more than three hundred men were hanged and quartered under the law of treason, and about a thousand were sent to work as slaves in the West Indies.

10. One lady, Alice Lisle, was condemned by the brutal Jeffreys to be burnt alive for the crime of giving shelter and food to two hunted rebels. Even James, hard-hearted as he was, was ashamed of this, and in his mercy allowed her to be beheaded at Winchester.

JAMES II. (*Continued*).

TYRANNY OF JAMES—RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION.

1. After this, James began to break the law by restoring the Roman Catholic religion. Catholic lords were brought into the council, Catholic officers into the army, and Catholic priests were made rectors and vicars in the Church of England.

2. A Catholic army was raised in Ireland to keep down any rising in England, and a camp of 13,000 men was formed at Hounslow, in order to frighten the people of London. In this James made a mistake. The citizens used to pay holiday visits to the camp, and make friends with the soldiers.

The feeling of the men towards the people was soon such that it was certain they would never use their arms against their fellow-subjects.

3. James went further still. He set up again the infamous Court of High Commission, which had been put down by the Long Parliament, and all clergymen were punished who dared to say a word from the pulpit against the Church of Rome. The clergy had always been the chief supporters of the throne, and now they stood aghast at such a reward for their services.

4. But the king had not done yet. He attacked the Protestant clergy in their very strongholds, the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. The vice-chancellor of Cambridge was turned out of his office for refusing to give the degree of Master of Arts to a Catholic named Father Francis.

5. At Oxford, the fellows of Magdalen College refused, at the king's command, to choose a Catholic as their president, or head of the college. They chose instead one of their own number, named Hough, afterwards Bishop of Worcester.

6. Hough openly defied the royal commissioners, with Jeffreys at their head, as they sat in the college hall as judges in the matter. When they declared that they deprived him of his office as president, he cried, "I declare all your acts herein to be null and void, and I appeal from you to our lord the king, in his courts of law."

7. Then the students of the college, who were crowded in the hall, loudly cheered these brave words of their lawful head and master. The butler

of the college flung down his cellar-keys, and refused to obey the president named by the king.

8. No blacksmith could be found in all the town of Oxford who would force open the doors of the president's lodge to admit the man of James's choice. The tyrant then drove out all the fellows from the college, which was their own lawful property, with its rooms, lands, and revenues, and sent them forth on the world as beggars.

9. The cup of men's patience was almost full, but James was to go further yet. In the middle of the year 1688, he ordered all the clergy to read from their pulpits what was called a *Declaration of Indulgence* for those who differed in religion from the Church of England. As in the case of Charles II. the pretence made was that of favouring the Protestant dissenters.

10. But the real object of James was to enable the Catholics to follow their religion freely. The document which the clergy were ordered by the king to read was a gross violation of the law. Nearly all the country clergy would have nothing to do with it, and in only four churches in London was the king's command obeyed. In those four churches the chief part of the people walked out as soon as the clergymen opened their mouths to read it.

JAMES II. (*Continued*).

THE SEVEN BISHOPS.

1. The king next brought matters to an end by attacking the very bishops of the church which had

once been so loyal, and which he had promised to maintain and defend. Seven bishops, headed by Sancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, had put into the king's hands at Whitehall Palace a respectful protest against his order to read the Declaration of Indulgence.

2. The king flew in a rage, declared their petition to be "a standard of rebellion," and sent them all as prisoners to the Tower. He then had them charged in the Court of King's Bench, at Westminster Hall, with publishing a "false, malicious, and seditious libel." One of their counsel, Mr. Somers, afterwards lord-chancellor of England, disposed of the charge in a speech which lasted little over five minutes.

3. Great public feeling was aroused about this matter. One of the bishops was Trelawney, Bishop of Bristol. He was by birth a Cornishman, and the men of his native county vowed to take up arms, in their famous song with the ending in every verse of—

"And shall Trelawney die? and shall Trelawney die?

Then thirty thousand Cornish boys shall know the reason
why!"

4. When the bishops were brought by water from the Tower to Westminster Hall for their trial, many of the people on the bank at Westminster fell on their knees. The archbishop laid his hands on the heads of such as he could reach, and begged them to keep firm in their faith. They cried aloud that all should kneel, while tears flowed from the eyes of many.

5. When, after being locked up all night to consider what verdict they should give, the jury gave the verdict of "Not guilty," shouts of joy shook the old and massy roof of the hall. The multitudes outside, in the streets, and on the river covered with boats, took up the cry.

6. The news, conveyed through the air by the mere noise, flew over London like lightning. Sturdy Englishmen were weeping with joy; men embraced, shook hands, and went nearly mad with delight. Such is the story of those who saw with their own eyes the events here written.

7. The bishops took refuge in the nearest chapel to escape the crowd, which begged their blessing. The bells of all the churches in the city were set ringing. Meanwhile the jury could scarcely make their way out of the hall. They were forced to shake hands with hundreds. "God bless you!" cried the people; "God prosper your families! You have done like honest good-natured gentlemen; you have saved us all to-day."

8. James had that morning visited the camp on Hounslow Heath. When the mounted man came with the news about the bishops he was much vexed, and cried in French, "So much the worse for them." He soon set out for London.

9. He had hardly left the camp when he heard a great shouting behind him. He was surprised, and asked what the uproar meant. "Nothing," was the reply; "the soldiers are glad that the bishops are acquitted." "Do you call that nothing?" said James. And then he repeated, "So much the worse for them."

10. The sullen tyrant might well be angry. He was not only defeated, but disgraced. His own soldiers were delighted at the victory of the people in the cause of freedom. From that hour he felt that all was over.

JAMES II. (*Continued*).

JAMES DEPOSED—WILLIAM AND MARY CALLED TO THE THRONE.

1. The acquittal of the bishops took place on June 30th, 1688. Twenty days before this an important event had come to pass. A son and heir was born to James. The people had borne with patience the king's evil rule, because they thought that, at his death, his eldest daughter Mary would follow him on the throne. She was a Protestant, married to William, Prince of Orange, head of the Dutch Republic, and chief opponent of Louis of France, the great Catholic king.

2. Now, by the baby's birth, this hope was gone. All Protestants declared, however, that the newborn child was no son of the king's or queen's, but an infant brought into the palace to be passed off as the heir. There is no reason to believe that this was the case, but the saying shows the feeling of the time.

3. Some of the chief nobles of England, who were in favour of freedom, at once invited William, Prince of Orange, to come over. He was to bring with him a strong Dutch army, and defend the rights of the people and the Protestant religion. On

November 5th he landed at Brixham, on the south side of the beautiful Torbay in Devonshire.

4. At that time the waves broke on a desolate beach at the place where William landed. A portion of the rock on which he stepped from his boat has been kept, and is to be seen in a monument that marks the place on the now busy wharf of Brixham. William slowly marched on London with fourteen thousand men.

5. Some of the royal troops and the king's second daughter, the Princess Anne, went over to the invader. "Even my own children forsake me!" James cried in his distress. There was no one who would fight for him, and on December 23rd he sailed away from the Thames for France, where he was most kindly treated by Louis XIV. The court of the banished Stuart king was at the palace of Saint-Germains, near Paris.

6. England had seen the last of James II., and, as rulers, of that branch of the Stuart line, which had again, in spite of terrible punishment in the past, oppressed, insulted, and betrayed the people.

7. For a few weeks the land remained without a legal ruler. None but a king could summon Parliament, and a body named a Convention was called together by some of the Lords, and met in London on January 22nd, 1689. This body was made up of all members who had sat in the House of Commons under Charles II.; of the lord mayor, aldermen, and fifty of the common council of London; and of the bishops and other lords. It voted that James II. had broken the laws of England, and



Entry of the Prince of Orange into Exeter after his Landing at Torbay, 1688.

given up the throne by leaving the kingdom, and that the throne was thereby vacant.

8. A bill was then passed settling the crown on William and Mary, the chief direction of the government being placed in William's hands. If they died childless, the Princess Anne was to be queen. Before the formal offer of the crown was made, William and Mary gave assent to a *Declaration of Rights* as "the undoubted rights and liberties of the English people."

9. The chief points laid down were those afterwards placed in the famous *Bill of Rights*, the third great charter of English freedom, ranking next to the Great Charter under John and the Petition of Right under Charles I.

10. On February 13th William and Mary were declared to be king and queen of England and Ireland. Scotland at that time had a government of her own, and a Convention called there some months later gave the crown to William and Mary. On April 11th they were crowned in Westminster Abbey.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

1. William III. was one of the greatest of English kings. He was a very wise and able man in civil affairs, and a brave and skilful commander in war. He was a silent man, cold in manner, and rather too fond of his Dutch followers, a peculiarity that caused some jealousy in England. Mary was

a loving and devoted wife, and William had for her the greatest trust and affection.

2. Some of the bishops and a large number of the clergy, who still believed in divine right, in spite of all the wrong done by kings of late, did not think it proper that James should lose his throne. They refused to take the oath of allegiance to William and Mary, and thus gained the name *Non-jurors*, or those who would not swear.

3. Archbishop Sancroft and seven other bishops were for this cause removed from their office. Those who still held for James are known as *Jacobites*, a name derived from *Jacobus*, the Latin word for James. During the reign of William, and in some of those that followed, this party gave trouble by forming plots to bring back the old Stuart line.

4. The freedom now enjoyed in Britain was first fully and finally settled at this Revolution, as it has been called, of 1688. Now for the first time the House of Commons obtained full command of the money raised by taxes, a power it has ever since retained. Not only do the Commons decide how much the people shall yearly pay, but also the way in which the money should be spent.

5. The *Mutiny Act* placed the standing army also under the control of the Commons, so that a ruler could never more have a chance of using the troops to destroy the rights of the nation. The *Toleration Act* allowed all Protestant dissenters to worship freely in their own way. The *Bill of Rights* settled that the king should in no way interfere with the laws by suspending or dispensing with them for a

time; that no money should be raised without grant of Parliament; that all subjects have a right to petition the ruler; that no Catholic, holding the Christian faith according to the Pope of Rome, nor person married to a Catholic, can hold the crown of England or Ireland.

6. At first there was some trouble with the supporters of James in Scotland and Ireland. The Stuart royalist, Viscount Dundee, defeated William's troops at the battle of Killiecrankie, in Perthshire, but was killed in the moment of victory. Scotland was then soon quieted down.

7. In Ireland, there was much fighting between the Protestant forces of William and the Catholics who were still for James. In July, 1689, the famous siege of Londonderry, after 103 days of severe fighting and famine, ended in the retreat of the army of James, who had passed over from France to Ireland.

8. On July 1st, 1690, William defeated James at the battle of the Boyne, and the latter fled to France, to appear no more in the British Isles. He died abroad in exile in 1701.

9. Then there was trouble with the French fleet of Louis. In June, 1690, his admiral beat an English and Dutch fleet at the battle of Beachy Head, and then insulted our coasts by burning the fishing town of Teignmouth in Devonshire.

10. In May, 1692, the French were fully repaid at the battle of La Hogue. After a severe fight in the Channel, the French ships were driven off in rout to the coast of Normandy. The English went in pursuit, and drove the enemy ashore. Eighteen

large French men-of-war were burnt; some under the eyes of James, and of a large French army gathered to invade England.

11. For some years William carried on the war by land against the French in Belgium. He was defeated by Louis' troops in 1692, at the battle of Steinkirk, and again at the battle of Landen in the following year. But he soon made up for his losses, and showed as bold a front as ever to the enemy.

12. In 1695 William's courage and firmness were rewarded by a great success against Louis. The strong fortress of Namur was bombarded and then stormed by the English and Dutch troops, in the face of a great French army outside, which could do nothing to save the place.

WILLIAM III.

1. In 1694, to the great grief of the king, Queen Mary died of small-pox, a very fatal disease in that age. Greenwich Hospital, founded by her wish in memory of the victory of La Hogue, was finished by William, in memory of his wife, as a place of retreat for aged, infirm, and disabled seamen of the royal navy.

2. The king had a narrow escape of his life in 1696, from a plot known as *Barclay's Conspiracy*. A Scotchman, Sir George Barclay, had, with others, formed a plan to kill the king on his way to Richmond Park, where he went every Saturday to hunt

the deer. One of the plotters revealed the matter in time, and eight of the men were put to death.

3. In 1697, peace was made with France by the Treaty of Ryswick, a village in Holland. Louis XIV. now acknowledged William as King of England, and agreed to give no more help to James for regaining his power.

4. A great and silent change, whose vast importance no one at the time thought of, was begun in 1695, by the refusal of the House of Commons to renew the act against free printing. This refusal did away with all interference of government officers called *censors* with what was sent forth from the printing-press.

5. Thus the great principle of *Freedom of the Press* was set up, which has worked great changes since that time. Public opinion now rules the world; and in England that opinion, speaking through the public press, is free to set wrong things right.

6. In 1701, as William had no children, the *Act of Settlement* was passed. The Princess Anne, who was to come next on the throne, had had many children, but the last of them had died in 1700, and it was needful to provide for the future. As all other members of the royal House of Stuart were Catholics, it was necessary to go to Germany to find a Protestant heir.

7. Prince George, Elector of Hanover, and Duke of Brunswick, was the man. He was the great-grandson of James I., as has been shown in the account of that reign; and it was now settled that the crown of Great Britain and Ireland should go

to him and his heirs. A very important part of the act made judges free from removal by the crown, as has been shown in the account of the reign of Charles I.

8. In September, 1701, at the death of James II. in France, the bad faith of Louis XIV. was fully shown. He at once, to please his dying friend, agreed to hold his son, James Edward Stuart, to be king of Great Britain as James III., and promised to support his claim to the throne.

9. It was quite clear, from Louis' greed for power abroad, and his enmity to Great Britain as a Protestant country, that further trouble from France was coming. This came to pass, we shall see, under Queen Anne.

10. William III. died in March, 1702. His horse fell with him as he rode in the park of Hampton Court, and his collar-bone was broken. His health had long been weak, and he did not get over the shock. He was buried by Mary's side in Westminster Abbey.

QUEEN ANNE.

WAR WITH FRANCE—THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH —THE UNION OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.

1. Queen Anne was a dull but good woman, much under the influence of female favourites. For most of her reign, the Duchess of Marlborough, wife of the great general, and the Duke of Marlborough himself, with Lord Godolphin, were the real rulers of the kingdom.

2. The one great man of the day was the Duke of Marlborough, and he had plenty of opportunity to show his powers in the wars and politics of the time. He was one of the ablest commanders in war that ever lived, and was almost as well skilled in other business.

3. The late king, William III., had formed against France what was called the *Grand Alliance*. It bound together England, Holland, Austria, Denmark, and Sweden to resist Louis. Louis' grandson had lately become king of Spain, which circumstance, it was thought, made the power of France far too great. Accordingly, in May, 1702, war was declared against France and Spain by the allies.

4. This great contest is known as the *War of the Spanish Succession*. The chief generals of the allies were Marlborough and Prince Eugene of Savoy, one of the foremost men in military matters at that time, and a devoted supporter of the English duke in all his doings against the common enemy.

5. In August, 1704, these two commanders gained over the French the great victory of Blenheim, in Bavaria. Of the French host of sixty thousand men, twelve thousand were killed and fourteen thousand taken prisoners. All the cannon, colours, tents, carriages, the general, Marshal Tallard, and twelve hundred officers, were left in the enemy's hands.

6. Germany was thus saved from being conquered by France; and a check, from which he never could recover, was given to the plans of Louis the Fourteenth for becoming master on the continent of Europe.

7. In the same year, Sir George Rooke, with the sailors and marines of his fleet, took the fortress of Gibraltar, which has ever since been held by Britain, and which has been made into one of the chief strongholds of the world.

8. Marlborough gained another great battle at Ramillies, near Brussels, in 1706. The French lost



Gibraltar, from the Neutral Ground.

about fourteen thousand men in killed, wounded, and prisoners, with many guns and colours, and most of their baggage. The skill of the duke's plans was shown by the fact that his loss in men was only three thousand. Many of the chief towns of Belgium were thus lost to Louis.

9. In 1708, the duke and his friend Eugene beat the French at Oudenarde in another great battle.

Prince George of Hanover (afterwards George II. of England) made some good cavalry charges for the duke. The allied army then marched into France, and took the strong fortress of Lille.

10. At Malplaquet, in Flanders, the two great generals again drove back the French in 1709, but this time the battle was won with the great loss on our side of twenty thousand men. This was the last of Marlborough's successes.

11. The queen had long been getting weary of the temper shown by the duchess, and the duke had enemies in England who were trying to ruin him. Anne took a new favourite in a quiet, sly lady, named Mrs. Masham.

12. Marlborough was accused of wrongly taking moneys during his command of the army. The House of Commons passed a vote of censure upon him in 1711, and he was dismissed by the queen from all his offices. The war ended in 1713 by the *Treaty of Utrecht*.

13. In this famous peace France agreed to the House of Hanover coming to the English throne, and withdrew her support from the Stuart line. Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, in North America, were given up to England by France, and Gibraltar by Spain.

14. A great event of Anne's reign was the union of the parliaments of England and Scotland. After much trouble, talk, and delay, the *Act of Union* was passed in 1707. It settled that the two kingdoms should be united under the name of Great Britain; that sixteen Scotch lords and forty-five

Scotch members of the Commons should be chosen for the Parliament sitting in London; that the established Presbyterian Church of Scotland should be maintained; that Scotland should keep her own laws and customs relating to property and private rights, and also her own courts; and that rights of trade and citizenship be the same for Scotch and English subjects.

15. From the time of the Union, thanks to the field of enterprise in trade thrown open to the efforts of her people, Scotland has made great advances in wealth. The nation also owes much to the good system of national education set up, with a school in every parish, by the Scotch Parliament, ten years before the Union.

16. Many Scottish villages have now become large and thriving towns; and small towns, such as Glasgow and Dundee then were, have become great places of trade, with manufactures that are known all over the world.

17. In August, 1714, Queen Anne died, and in spite of efforts made by some of the Jacobites, George, Elector of Hanover, came in peace to the throne.

GREAT MEN OF STUART TIMES.

1. Amid all the troubles and tyranny of the time, the thoughts of men were free, and some of the greatest names in our history throw a bright light upon these years of storm and strife.

2. As writers of plays, we have Shakespeare, who

belongs to the time of Elizabeth, but who died in 1616; and his friend Ben Jonson, famous for plays and other writings, who lived till 1637.

3. Francis Bacon was Chancellor under James I., and is one of the greatest of Englishmen in learning and power of thought. We met with him also in the account of Elizabeth's reign, as a writer of the famous Essays.

4. The Earl of Clarendon, one of Charles II.'s ministers, wrote his great *History of the Rebellion* between 1667 and 1674. Samuel Butler, a man of great wit and learning, laughed at the Puritans in his poem *Hudibras*. One of the greatest poets of the world, John Milton, gave us his *Paradise Lost* in 1667. His smaller poems and his splendid prose would alone have placed him in the first rank of English writers.

5. John Bunyan, the Baptist preacher, was a tinker by trade, who served for a short time as a soldier during the great civil war. Under Charles II. he was put in Bedford jail as a dissenter from the Church of England. He there wrote the first part of his immortal *Pilgrim's Progress*, the best book of the kind that has ever appeared in the world.

6. One of England's great poets, John Dryden, belongs to the same age. Richard Baxter, the chief dissenting minister of the time, was the author of two famous books called *Saints' Everlasting Rest* and *Call to the Unconverted*. Isaac Walton published in 1653 *The Complete Angler*, a charming book which is much more than a mere work on fishing.

7. Jeremy Taylor, a bishop in Ireland, was a preacher of the finest sermons heard till that time from a Churchman, and his beautiful prose has made him one of the finest writers of English. His *Holy Living and Holy Dying* is his best-known work.

8. Under Charles II., John Locke, a strong supporter of civil and religious freedom, wrote much in its defence, and is famous in another way for his *Essay on the Human Understanding*. Gilbert Burnet, Bishop of Salisbury, a great friend of William III., wrote a history of the Reformation in England and a history of his own time, both works of great interest and value.

GREAT MEN OF STUART TIMES (*Continued*).

1. Under Queen Anne, the prose-writing of England came, as many think, to its best form for manly sense in the ideas, and force, clearness, and charm of language. The proofs of this are seen in Joseph Addison's beautiful essays in the *Spectator*, and in the works of Daniel Defoe, Dean Swift, and Richard Steele. Defoe's most famous book, loved by all boys, *Robinson Crusoe*, was published just after the Stuart age in 1719.

2. In science we have William Harvey, a physician, who in 1628 published and proved his discovery of the grand fact of the circulation of the blood. It took him a long time and a vast amount of trouble to get together his proofs which he then

gave to the world in a Latin work of wonderful clearness and skill.

3. The Royal Society, which had among its first members, as it still has, men great as chemists, astronomers, mathematicians, botanists, and zoologists, was founded just after the return of royal rule under Charles II.

4. John Flamsteed, from whose time dates the beginning of modern astronomy, was the first astronomer-royal. The Observatory at Greenwich was founded by Charles II. The movements of the heavenly bodies are there seen and set down, and the calculations then made are of great value for the safety of ships at sea.

5. We come next to the greatest name in science to be found in modern times, that of Sir Isaac Newton. This wonderful man was born in Lincolnshire, on Christmas Day, 1642. In 1660 he became a student of Trinity College, Cambridge, and his talents and hard work made him, in course of time, the greatest mathematician and astronomer that the world has ever seen.

6. He made great discoveries as to the properties of light, improved the telescope, and found out new ways of mathematical calculation. But his grand discovery was that of the law of universal gravitation.

7. It is in virtue of this law that a stone falls to the ground; that the planets, including our own earth, are kept in regular movement round the sun as the central body that attracts them; and that the moon has her course round the earth. The

facts were known before, but Newton gave to the world the reason and cause of the facts. It is for this that the poet Pope wrote of Newton:

“Nature and Nature’s laws lay hid in night:
God said, Let Newton be! and all was light.”

8. Art in England under the Stuarts was chiefly foreign. Rubens and Van Dyck (or Vandyke), under Charles I., were Dutchmen. Sir Peter Lely, who painted the court ladies under Charles II., still to be seen in beauty on his canvases at Hampton Court, was a German. So also was Sir Godfrey Kneller, who painted portraits under William III. and Anne.

9. In the art of building there are two great English names. To Inigo Jones is due the Banqueting-house (now the United Service Museum) of Whitehall Palace, in front of which Charles I. was beheaded. To Sir Christopher Wren, as all the world knows, we owe the grace and stateliness and beauty of St. Paul’s Cathedral, the work of five-and-thirty years. It was finished in 1710, and still lifts its proud dome into the blue of summer skies above the smoke of London.

GEORGE I.

MAR’S REBELLION—SOUTH SEA BUBBLE.

1. George I. was a dull, honest, brave German prince, fifty-four years of age when he came to the throne. He knew little of England and nothing of

our language, cared more for his dear Hanover than for his new kingdoms, and left affairs a good deal to his ministers.

2. In 1715, the Jacobites rose in rebellion in Scotland, in favour of James II.'s son, known as the *Old Pretender*, or claimant of the throne. This rising is known as the Earl of Mar's Rebellion, from the name of the leader. A battle was fought at Sheriffmuir, near Stirling, between the king's forces, commanded by the Duke of Argyle, and the Highlanders, under Mar. Both sides claimed the victory, but it brought the affair in Scotland to an end.

3. Early in 1716, some noblemen and gentry made a stir in the north of England, but soon had to surrender to the king's troops. Two lords who had taken part in it, Derwentwater and Kenmure, were beheaded on Tower Hill. A third, Lord Nithsdale, through the devotion of his wife, got out of the Tower, dressed in her clothes, the night before he was to die. Lady Nithsdale remained behind in the cell, dressed in her husband's clothes, and the headsman was thus cheated of one of his victims.

4. A great man, Sir Robert Walpole, came to the front in 1720, and soon had a chance of showing his good sense. A number of clever and dishonest men formed a company called the "South Sea Company." Some of the ministers were in the affair, and the pretence was that money without end was to be made by getting gold and silver from mines in South America, and doing a great trade with the isles of the South Sea or Pacific Ocean.

5. The people were so ignorant then, that they

seem to have thought that sugar, coffee, spices, and cotton grew there of themselves, ready to be brought away in ships. When shares in this company were offered for sale to the public, the people went fairly mad in their greed for gold.

6. All classes rushed to buy, and felt sure of making their fortunes speedily. Up went the shares in price; and down on the counters of the South Sea office in the city came the money of statesmen, shopkeepers, fine ladies and gentlemen, doctors, actors, lawyers, and squires. In August, the hundred pound shares were worth a thousand pounds.

7. All sorts of other plans were started to get money from the public, such as one for turning salt-water into fresh, another for changing coal into iron, a third for getting silver from lead, and oil from sunflowers.

8. Science has now taught us how to make sea-water fresh, in case of need, and some silver is obtained in purifying lead-ores, but nothing was then known of such things. The plans were all trickery to cheat the foolish.

9. At last the people awoke from their dreams, and down went the price of the South Sea shares. Before Christmas came, they were merely waste paper. Thousands of people were ruined, and the South Sea directors, with the statesmen and courtiers who had helped them to gull the public, had their pockets full of money.

10. Then came the punishment. Aislachie, one of the chief ministers, was expelled from the House of Commons, and many of the directors had to pay

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great fines of money. Walpole had all along been against the company, and he now gained the trust of king and people. He was made chief minister in 1721, and for more than twenty years ruled England with great wisdom. His chief aim was to keep peace with other nations, and this he did for most of his career.

11. In 1727, George I. died in Germany, when on his way to Hanover for his usual summer visit. The next king was his son George.

GEORGE II.

PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY—ANSON'S VOYAGE— REBELLION OF 1745.

1. The new king, George II., was about forty-four years old when he came to the throne. His wife, Queen Caroline, a German princess, was a lady of great sense and ability, and for the first ten years of the reign, till her death in 1737, she and Walpole were the real rulers. The king was much like his father, but could speak English well, and knew more of what was going on about him.

2. The country was making rapid progress in trade and manufactures, and Walpole managed the money affairs of the nation well. In 1739 he was driven into war with Spain, but little of importance was done.

3. In 1740 Commodore Anson began his famous four-years' voyage round the world. He passed

round Cape Horn, and plundered the Spanish towns on the coast of Peru. On his way home round the Cape of Good Hope, he took a large Spanish ship with a vast amount of silver on board, and came back to England with the *Centurion*, the only one left of his six ships.

4. Walpole had now lost his power in the House of Commons, and gave up his ministry in 1742. He left the nation engaged in a war on the Continent called the *War of the Austrian Succession*.

5. In 1743 a king of England, for the last time, led his troops into battle. This was at Dettingen, in Bavaria, where George gained a victory over the French.

6. The Jacobites again rose in rebellion in 1745. This time it was in favour of the *Young Pretender*, Charles Edward Stuart, son of the Pretender of 1715, and grandson of James II.

7. The young prince was twenty-four years old, and was a tall, handsome, blue-eyed, curly-haired man, of high courage but poor brains. He was much admired by the people of Scotland, and is the "bonnie Prince Charlie" of Jacobite songs.

8. At first he had some success. His army grew, and on September 17th, he was established at Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh. The castle there was held for the king. The king's general, Cope, was nearing Edinburgh. The prince marched out with his force of 2500 men to meet him, and the Highlanders, broadsword in hand, in one dashing charge beat the king's troops at the battle of Prestonpans.

9. The royal guns, stores, and money-chest were

taken, and Sir John Cope fled on horseback as fast as he could to Berwick, and was the first to tell the news of his own defeat. He was much laughed at in songs such as "Johnnie Cope."

10. Then George and his son, the Duke of Cumberland, came back from Hanover, and plenty of troops were got ready to defend England. In November, the young prince marched over the border with about 6000 men, and got as far as Derby on December 5th. But no English rising occurred, as he had hoped, and he withdrew again to Scotland.

11. At last, on April 16th, 1746, the matter ended with the total defeat of Charles on Culloden Moor, near Inverness, by the king's troops under the Duke of Cumberland. The duke got the name of *The Butcher* on account of the cruelty used to the unhappy rebels.

12. After five months of wandering, the prince got away to France. He lived till 1788, and died, aged sixty-seven, a worn-out drunkard. His brother Henry, a Roman Catholic prelate called Cardinal York, died at Rome in 1807, and with him ended the ill-fated elder line of the Stuarts.

GEORGE II. (*Continued*).

WILLIAM PITT—CAPTURE OF QUEBEC—CLIVE IN INDIA—WESLEY AND WHITFIELD.

1. In 1754, another great man came forward to do good service to his country. This was the first

William Pitt, afterwards Earl of Chatham. He was a born orator and leader of a nation, stately in



Prince Charlie in hiding in Skye.

form, striking in face, with a powerful voice and fiery look.

2. He was one of the greatest and noblest of Englishmen, and well deserves the praise given him by Macaulay, that "of the many eminent men whose bones lie near his" [in Westminster Abbey] "scarcely one has left a more stainless, and none a more splendid name."

3. The time was soon to come when his bold spirit, and his skill in choosing fit men to command, were to do much to raise the power and fame of Britain. In 1754, a struggle began between the English colonists in North America and the French, who then held Canada.

4. The war soon became general, because England joined in the famous Seven Years' War, beginning in 1756. On the one side were England and Prussia, under Frederick the Great; and on the other, France and Austria. At first British arms were unsuccessful both on land and on sea; but Pitt came back into power in 1757, and a change was quickly seen.

5. In 1758, the French were driven from several forts in America, and many French men-of-war were taken on that coast. The French were beaten in a gallant attack by British ships on the coast of Brittany in 1759. In September of the same year the brave General Wolfe, killed in the moment of victory, drove the French army off the Heights of Abraham, near Quebec. The town then yielded, and twelve months later Britain obtained possession of all Canada.

6. We must now cross the world and turn our eyes to Asia. It was at this time also that the wonderful British empire in India began. We had

long had some small places of trade, and forts and pieces of land, at Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, but the French were also settled near us, and the rulers of nearly all the land were native princes.

7. A great man named Robert Clive, afterwards Lord Clive, laid the foundation of British power. Near Madras, he beat both French and native troops, and made the British masters of Southern India by 1755.

8. He was called to Calcutta the next year on account of the terrible tragedy known as the *Black Hole of Calcutta*. Throughout a sultry night in June, over one hundred British prisoners were confined by the native prince of Bengal in a room which, in that hot climate, had not air enough for a dozen persons to breathe. In the morning but twenty-three pale exhausted creatures issued from the den of torment, the rest having perished in agony.

9. In June, 1757, Clive, with three thousand men, of whom only one thousand were British, gained the glorious victory of Plassey over the native prince's army of fifty thousand men. This made us masters of Bengal and other provinces, and first gave us a firm hold of the country.

10. It was in this reign that the great revival of religion, caused by the preaching and other labours of John Wesley and George Whitfield, began. Wesley, the founder of the Wesleyans, the greatest body of Protestant dissenters in England, was a Church clergyman who was resolved to do his duty. At that time many people in the upper classes, made an open mockery of the Christian faith.



After Plassey—Meeting of Clive and Meer Jaffer, one of the Nabob's commanders who deserted to the British.

11. The Church ministers, too, did little either to rebuke wickedness in high places or to preach the

Gospel to the poor. Vast numbers of the working-class, in town and country alike, were little better than heathens.

12. Then Wesley and Whitfield went throughout the land, preaching in barns and chapels; and Whitfield also in the streets and in the open fields. Wherever people would come and listen, and they soon did come in crowds, these men spoke for God in mighty words that wrought a great change in men's hearts and lives.

13. The power of Whitfield's speech in every way was wonderful. He could make himself heard by a crowd of twenty thousand people in the open air, and, as he spoke to miners and colliers, you might see the white lines made by the tears which ran down their grimy faces.

14. The followers of these two good and great men were called, by the Church people, by the mocking name of Methodists, from the strictness and purity of their lives. They soon became great in numbers and power, and from that time began fresh life and vigour in the Church of England itself.

GEORGE III.

STATE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS— TREATY OF PARIS.

1. George III. was the grandson of George II., being the son of Frederick, Prince of Wales, who died in 1751. He was twenty-two years of age when he came to the throne, and had been brought

up by his mother, the Princess of Wales, and her favourite adviser, the Earl of Bute, with high notions of the royal rights and power.

2. Her constant cry to him was, "George, be a king;" and during all his reign he tried to follow her advice. As he had a very narrow mind, and a very poor judgment, the result was that, in spite of his private life, which was pure, his reign was disastrous to the best interests of the nation.

3. He was as much of an absolute ruler as he dared be, and it was not the House of Commons now, as in the early Stuart times, that was the check on the power of the crown, but the people outside the House, most of whom had no voice in choosing its members.

4. The truth is, that under George III., the House of Commons had, to a large extent, ceased to represent the people. The changes caused by time had brought it to pass that many large towns had no members at all. Many decayed places, mere villages in fact, sent members to the House.

5. These small places were in the hands of the crown or of other great land-owners, and they chose what members they pleased. By this means George III., having on his side most of the large land-owners, could be sure that a great number of members would support his ministers in the Commons. Besides this, there was a great deal of bribery.

6. Members who would, if let alone, have voted against the government, were bought over by places or posts of profit, with a good salary and little or

nothing to do. Then there were pensions given to others, and sums of money were paid down, for the votes of the worst of these men, in bank-notes or hard cash.

7. This was the shameless and corrupt way in which George's ministers got Parliament to back them up in acts of the greatest mischief to the country. It was not till the reign of William IV. that the proper remedy for this evil was put into action by the reform of the House of Commons, when votes for choosing its members were given to the middle class of the nation.

8. In 1763, the *Treaty of Paris* ended the war going on with France and Spain. By this treaty we finally acquired, and have ever since retained, Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Cape Breton Island, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, in North America. Havana, the capital of Cuba, and Manilla, in the East Indies, had been taken by us from Spain, and were now given up in exchange for Florida, on the south-east of North America.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

LOSS OF AMERICAN COLONIES.

1. In 1765, trouble began with our colonies in North America. The prime-minister, Mr. Grenville, had the *Stamp Act* passed, in order to raise money there on stamps which had to be bought from the government, and put on to deeds and other documents. The thirteen colonies, as they then were,

containing about two millions of people, spoke out strongly against this.

2. They said that they had no members to represent them in Parliament, and that, as British subjects may not be taxed without their own consent in Parliament, they ought not to pay taxes to the British government at home. In 1766, the Stamp Act was repealed, but another was passed declaring that Parliament had the right, if it chose, to tax the colonists.

3. An act was passed in 1767, putting duties on tea, glass, paper, and other articles of use, and riots then took place in the colonies. In 1769, the Virginian House of Assembly declared that the colony could be legally taxed only by its own House. Still George and his ministers would take no warning.

4. Lord North became prime-minister in 1770, and Lord Chatham in the House of Lords, and the great Irishman, Edmund Burke, in the Commons, spoke strongly in favour of the colonists. Lord North then took off all taxes except that on tea, but this he kept to show the right he claimed for the home-country. In all these doings George backed his ministers with his usual dull obstinacy, which he took to be the firmness of a great ruler.

5. In 1773, a party of men at Boston, in America, went on board some ships in the harbour and threw the cargoes of tea overboard. Another great speaker in the Commons, Charles James Fox, joined Burke and Chatham in supporting the cause of freedom: but North and the king could not be moved.

6. Then, in 1774, twelve of the thirteen colonies sent men to a meeting at Philadelphia, and they drew up a *Declaration of Rights*, which was another



The Beginning of the War.

strong warning of what was to come. At last, in April, 1775, the war of American Independence broke out. At Lexington, near Boston, a force of colonial riflemen attacked a body of British troops and gave them a severe defeat.

7. Colonel George Washington was put at the head of the rebel forces, and, sometimes winning, sometimes losing, he gained undying fame by his cool courage, firmness, and skill throughout the war.

8. On July 4th, 1776, the *Declaration of Independence* was signed by a meeting at Philadelphia of men representing all the thirteen colonies, and the great republic called the United States began to exist.

9. In 1777, a British force of 6000 men, under General Burgoyne, was surrounded at Saratoga by a great American army, and forced to lay down its arms. This was the turning-point of the struggle. Early the next year our parliament gave up the right to tax the colonies, and wished to make peace.

10. But it was now too late. The French government of Louis XVI. had already made an alliance with the new state, and sent out ships and troops. At last, in 1781, another large British force, under Lord Cornwallis, was forced to surrender at Yorktown, in Virginia, and by the *Peace of Paris*, in 1783, England recognized the United States of America as an independent power.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

DEFENCE OF GIBRALTAR—PITT THE YOUNGER— THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.

1. During the last part of our war with the colonists, we had been hard beset by foes in Europe, and here the courage of British seamen and soldiers

was shown forth with real glory. Spain and Holland, each then having powerful fleets, joined France against Britain.

2. One of the chief deeds of our men was the famous defence of Gibraltar, from 1779 to 1782, against the forces of France and Spain. General George Eliott was our leader, and he and his men showed the utmost skill and courage.

3. By land and sea, by fleets and armies, by cannon-shot, bullets, and famine, the place was attacked in vain. Our ships forced their way through and took in supplies of food. Our guns on "the Rock," as it is called, burnt the Spanish floating batteries with red-hot shot, and the enemy at last retired.

4. Admiral Rodney, in the West Indies, gained a great victory over the French fleet, and thus saved the island of Jamaica, in 1782.

5. In that year William Pitt, second son of Lord Chatham, became one of the king's ministers, at the very early age of twenty-three. He was already one of the best speakers in the House of Commons, and a first-rate man of business. At the same time the famous Irishman, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, showed his brilliant powers as a speaker in the Commons.

6. The struggle which had been caused by the king and his foolish ministers had added over £100,000,000 to our national debt. All we had to show for the great loss of money and life, was the gain of a few paltry islands in the West Indies.

7. At the end of 1783 William Pitt became chief

minister, and for seventeen years directed the government with great ability, though not always with perfect wisdom or success. He was a man who wished to do well for his country, and was far wiser than most men of his time, but he could not make the king and the House of Commons see things as he did.

8. It was his fortune to have to manage our affairs during times of much difficulty, including part of the greatest war in which we have ever been engaged. In 1789 the greatest event of modern times came to pass. This was the French Revolution.

9. In its progress and results it changed the face of Europe. It shook down ancient thrones and raised up new ones. It wasted Europe with war for over twenty years, and cost the world millions of lives in blood, and thousands of millions of pounds in money.

10. The twenty-five millions of people in France had for ages been suffering from evil rule. At last, in July, 1789, they rose in their fury and their might. The power of the king, nobles, and clergy was swept away. Early in 1793, Louis XVI. was beheaded in Paris, and his wife, Marie Antoinette, an Austrian princess, soon followed him to the grave by the same cruel fate.

11. A republic was set up in France. Amid all the cruelties and horrors of the time, the French people were giving a stern warning to oppressors, and showing a bold front to kings and governments who wished to stay their course.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

NAPOLEON—LORD NELSON.

1. At first Pitt was in favour of the new French government, but Burke, by his speeches and writings, roused the English people against the Revolution, and Pitt was forced to go with them. In 1793 the war between England and France began, and early in the struggle the ablest man of modern times came to the front on the side of France.

2. This was the young Corsican, Napoleon Bonaparte, a colonel of artillery, who was in a few years to become one of the greatest of generals and conquerors, emperor of France, and master of much of western Europe. On our side two men of the first rank won for themselves undying fame, and did the greatest service to Britain.

3. These were Nelson and Wellington, the great leaders of our men by sea and land. We had against us on the ocean the fleets of Holland, France, and Spain, but the skill and courage of our admirals and sailors made quick work with all foes.

4. In 1797, Nelson, as second in command under Sir John Jervis, took the chief part in defeating the Spanish fleet at the battle of St. Vincent, fought near the cape of that name on the coast of Portugal. In the same year, Admiral Duncan, at the battle of Camperdown, on the coast of Holland, had a desperate battle with a Dutch fleet, under De Winter.

5. The English took most of the enemy's ships, and thereby prevented a French invasion of Ireland.

The Dutch had meant to join a French fleet in bringing an army over from France to the Irish shores. In 1798, Nelson ruined Napoleon's plans for attacking our Indian empire by destroying the French fleet at the great battle of the Nile.



Nelson Leading a Boarding-party.

6. We may here mention that, after a rebellion in Ireland in 1798, Pitt resolved to have but one parliament for Great Britain and Ireland. By the *Act of Union* of 1800 Ireland sends 103 members to the House of Commons.

7. Pitt was unable, on account of George III.'s

foolish obstinacy, to carry out his wish of removing the unjust laws passed against the Catholics in the reign of Charles II. They still remained shut out from seats in Parliament and from all public affairs.

8. In 1801, Nelson, as second in command, fought and gained the great battle of Copenhagen, against the powerful Danish ships and forts. The Danes had joined Russia and Sweden against Britain, and the success of Nelson caused them to give up their hostile position. The death of the Russian emperor broke up the alliance, as his son and successor, Alexander, was friendly to Great Britain.

9. A short stoppage in the war was brought about by the Peace of Amiens in 1802, but the quarrel soon broke out again. Then Napoleon planned an invasion of England, and gathered a great army at Boulogne. In 1804 he became Emperor of the French, and hoped soon to be master also of England.

10. But all his efforts to gain the command of the Channel failed. He could not clear the way for his army to get across, and in October, 1805, Nelson put an end to the naval efforts of France by his great victory in the battle of Trafalgar, on the south-west coast of Spain.

11. All the world knows that he was killed in the fight, but the French and Spanish fleets were destroyed, and no more thoughts of invading England could arise in the mind of our great enemy.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

NAPOLEON—THE PENINSULAR WAR.

1. After the destruction of his navy at Trafalgar, Napoleon turned his troops against the power of Austria and Prussia, and in December of the same year (1805) defeated both their emperors at the great battle of Austerlitz, in Moravia.

2. This was a death-blow to Pitt, who had formed an alliance with the chief European governments against France. The great English minister died, worn out with toil and care, in January, 1806. His famous and generous rival, Fox, soon followed him to the grave.

3. Before he died he had induced the House of Commons to make a stand against the trade in negroes taken from Africa to be sold as slaves in British colonies. In 1807 an act of Parliament did away with this cruel traffic.

4. Napoleon's enmity to England was at its height after Trafalgar, and he did all he could, which was not much, to ruin our trade. In 1806 he had conquered Prussia, and he sent out orders, in his famous *Berlin Decrees*, that none of the continental peoples should buy British goods. Of course all the coasts could not be watched at every point, and we carried on our trade by a vast amount of smuggling.

5. By 1808 the power of Napoleon was supreme on the Continent. His own proper rule reached from the mouth of the Rhine to Naples; and he and

the Emperor of Russia were masters of most of Europe. He now engaged in a matter which brought our second great hero to the front, and began a struggle which, in a large degree, caused his own ruin.

6. In 1807 Napoleon's army had invaded Portugal, driven out the royal family and government, and entered Lisbon as conquerors. He then turned against Spain. Her king, Ferdinand VII., was asked to meet Napoleon at Bayonne, in the south of France, and was there and then made prisoner and dethroned.

7. Napoleon's brother Joseph, King of Naples, became king of Spain, and entered Madrid in July, 1808. Then the Spanish people rushed to arms throughout the land. Joseph was driven from his capital. The French army was repulsed, with glory for the Spaniards, from the walls of Saragossa.

8. At the same time Portugal rose against the French, and the great contest known as the *Peninsular War* had begun. Portugal was an old ally of England. The hour had come for Britain, triumphant on the sea, to strike a blow on land also at the master of half Europe, and, with the hour, had come the man.

9. On August 1st, 1808, Sir Arthur Wellesley landed on the coast of Portugal with a few thousand British infantry and a few hundred cavalry. Within three weeks he had beaten the French in two sharp battles, but soon afterwards came back to England.

10. Early in 1809 Sir John Moore, killed in the moment of victory, beat the French at Corunna,

but his men were forced to embark in their ships, and return to England, as great French armies were coming up.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

NAPOLEON — WELLINGTON — END OF PENINSULAR WAR.

1. The real struggle began when Sir Arthur went back to Portugal in April, 1809. He proved himself to be one of the greatest commanders of all time. Under him the British army reached the height of its fame. He won his way through all difficulties by coolness, patience, courage, and skill, and beat one after another many of Napoleon's best generals.

2. Within three weeks of his landing he crossed the deep and broad river Douro, in the face of the French army, and drove Marshal Soult out of Oporto. In July he defeated at Talavera, in Spain, a far larger French army, after a two-days' battle. For this victory he was made a peer as Viscount Wellington, and as Wellington he is best known in history.

3. In 1810 the French, under Massena, were severely repulsed at Busaco, in Portugal; and in the autumn Wellington, in the face of a great French force, retired to the famous Lines of Torres Vedras. These consisted of a double line of forts, mounting over 600 cannon, and stretching from the Tagus to the sea, to provide for the safety of Lisbon.

4. We may here mention that, in 1811, the old king became insane; and his eldest son George, Prince of Wales, ruled in his stead as Prince Regent. In 1811 Wellington fought hard and with success against Massena; and another part of the British force, with a Spanish army, defeated Marshal Soult, one of Napoleon's best generals, at the desperate battle of Albuera.

5. The year 1812 was one of glory for the British army. In January Wellington's troops took by storm the strong fortress of Ciudad Rodrigo, in the west of Spain. He then went to the south and took, after hard fighting, the still stronger place called Badajoz.

6. The frontier of Portugal was thus made safe, and Wellington marched on into Spain. On July 22nd, at the great battle of Salamanca, he gained one of his greatest victories over the French, commanded by Marmont, a very able general. The fame of this victory spread fast through Europe, and had a great effect on the minds of men. Napoleon's foes throughout Europe were pleased to find that French soldiers could be smartly and thoroughly beaten.

7. Napoleon, after again beating the Austrians in 1809, and marrying their emperor's daughter in 1810, had gone to war with Russia. In 1812 he invaded Russia with a vast army. He was met with courage and skill, and by the end of the year was driven away with the loss of almost all his men.

8. In June, 1813, Wellington, after forcing Joseph to leave Madrid, and pursuing him north to the

mountains, gave the French a total defeat at the great battle of Vittoria. He then, after hard fighting with French troops under Soult, cleared the way through the Pyrenees, and entered France in October. In the next few weeks he gained battle after battle in the south of France.

9. Meanwhile Napoleon had been fighting hard in Germany against the forces of Russia, Sweden, Austria, and Prussia, and was at last driven back over the Rhine. France was invaded from the east by great armies of the allied powers, and, after a desperate and skilful resistance, Napoleon was forced to give in. He lost his throne in April, 1814, and went, as a sort of prisoner at large, to the island of Elba, on the coast of Italy.

10. Wellington was made a duke. His mother saw him enter the House of Lords as Sir Arthur Wellesley, and then take his seat as Duke of Wellington, after hearing read in turn the documents, called patents, which made him baron, viscount, earl, marquis, and duke.

GEORGE III. (*Continued*).

BATTLE OF WATERLOO—DISTRESS IN BRITAIN.

1. In March, 1815, Napoleon escaped from Elba and landed in France. He was welcomed back by his old troops, and raised another great army. England and Prussia were first in the field against him.

2. The English force, including many German

and Belgian troops, was under the command of Wellington, and on June 16th he beat the French, under Marshal Ney, at Quatre Bras, in Belgium. On the same day the Prussians, under the famous Marshal Blücher, were defeated by Napoleon in person at Ligny, but they retired in good order to join the English.

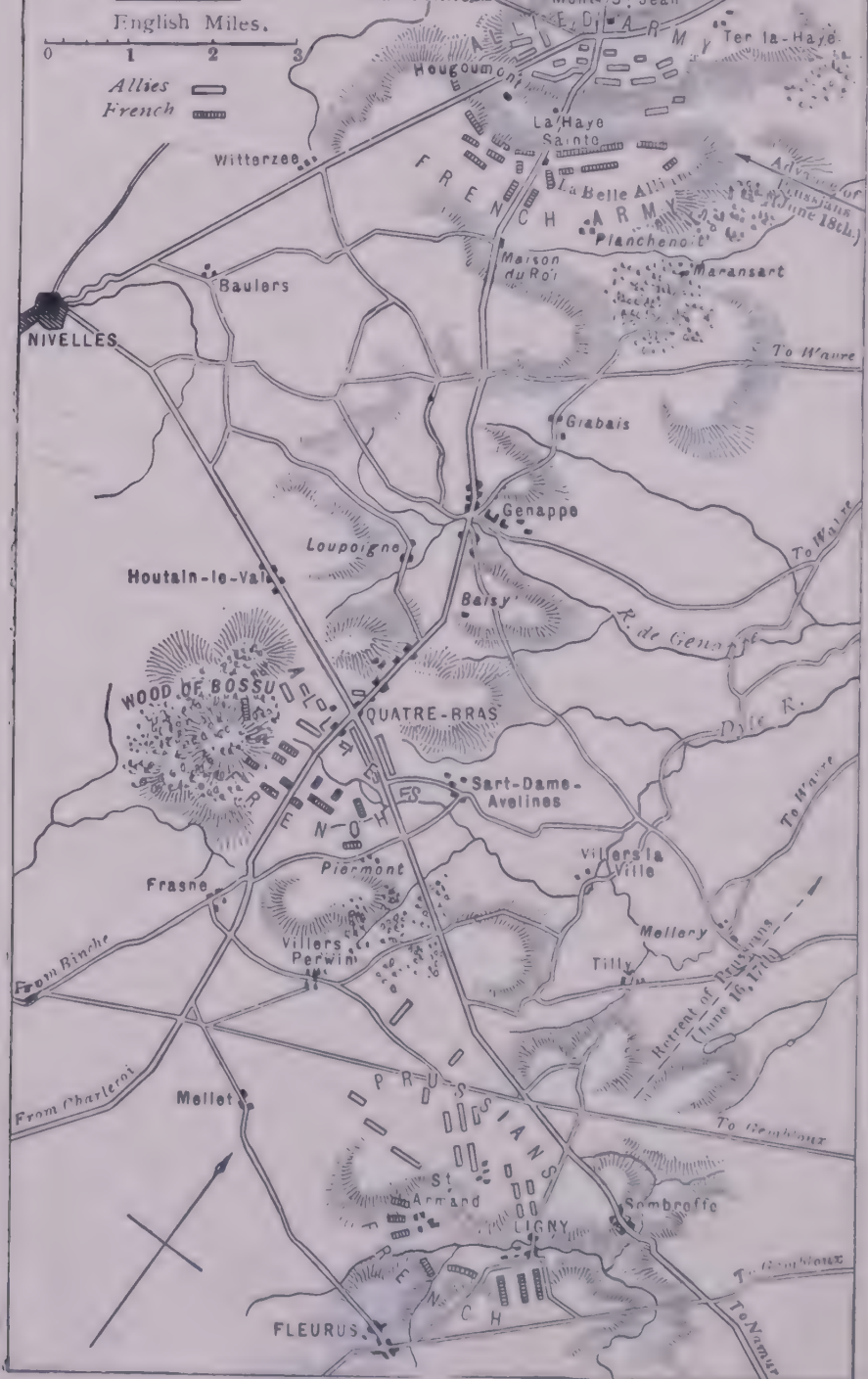
3. On June 18th Napoleon's fate was decided at the greatest battle of modern times, on the field of Waterloo, twelve miles south of Brussels. The battle began about eleven in the morning, and lasted till past eight in the evening. The Prussians came on the field about four, and gave much help, but the main part of the struggle was borne by the English and some of their German troops. The end was a total rout of the French.

4. The nature of the fighting, which was equally an honour for bravery and skill to the winners and the losers, may be judged by the fearful loss in killed and wounded. Wellington's army lost about 15,000 men, the Prussians 7000, and the French 30,000, including those killed in the long and fierce pursuit by the Prussian horsemen.

5. Napoleon was now quite ruined. He again gave up his throne, and tried to escape to America. He was taken by a British ship, and sent as a prisoner to the island of St. Helena, in the South Atlantic, where he died in 1821. The war ended with another *Peace of Paris*, and the map of Europe was settled by the *Congress of Vienna*.

6. The cost to Britain had been such that in 1815 the National Debt reached nearly 900 millions.

Sketch to Illustrate
THE BATTLES OF
QUATRE-BRAS, LIGNY
AND
WATERLOO.



Much distress was caused to the people by the high price of corn and the bad condition of trade. An Act, called a *Corn-law*, was passed in 1815, which kept up the price of corn for the good of farmers and land-owners. There were also several deficient harvests.

7. Much discontent arose, and there were demands made for a reform of the House of Commons. Then severe laws were passed, known as the *Six Acts*, to prevent people from meeting, and also from writing, to state their views as to the government of the country

8. In 1817 the country suffered a severe loss in the death, after the birth of an infant (which also died), of the Prince Regent's only child, the Princess Charlotte. It was this sad event which, as it turned out, left the way to the throne open for the Duke of Kent's daughter Victoria, born in 1819. Her father died on January 23rd, 1820, and six days later the old king died at Windsor, aged eighty-one.

PROGRESS OF BRITAIN FROM 1714 TILL 1820.

1. During the eighteenth century Britain made a great advance in trade and manufactures, in wealth, and in the number of her people. The population more than doubled, increasing from under seven to about fourteen millions.

2. Under George III. the manufacture of goods by the skilful work of men's hands developed to

such an extent that Britain became a kind of workshop for a large part of the world. Already some towns in Norfolk and in the south-west of Yorkshire, such as Norwich and Leeds, were doing much in weaving woollen cloth. Manchester and Bolton had spread their names for cotton goods; Dundee for linen; and Spitalfields, in the east of London, for silks.

3. Then, all at once, the brains and hands of clever and resolute men found out and set to work the means of making goods with far more ease, speed, and cheapness than had ever before been possible. Machines, instead of hands, began to spin and weave. James Hargreaves, a Lancashire man, greatly improved the way of dressing and of spinning cotton, by his combing-frame and spinning-jenny. Richard Arkwright, a barber of Preston, made still better work in cotton with his spinning-frame.

4. Samuel Crompton, a third Lancashire man, invented a machine of great value called the spinning-mule, which of itself did the work of the other two spinning-machines together. Thus was improved the way of making yarn or thread from the raw cotton, which is like rough wool.

5. The next thing was to find a quicker means than the hand-loom gave, for weaving the yarn or thread into cotton cloths. The labours of several men spread over many years ended in the invention of the power-loom.

6. But clever and useful as they were, machines could do but little for mankind until a force was used to drive them on with the untiring speed and

certainty and power that human hands could never have. The force we mean was that of steam, and the man who showed the world how best to use it for machines was the great Scotchman, James Watt.

7. In 1769 he brought to work the great changes which turned the steam-engine from a mere play-thing into the most wonderful and powerful instrument which the industry of man has ever had at its command.

8. Not only in cotton and in wool, but in silk and iron, and many other articles, steam soon gave our workmen the first place in the markets of the world. The trade of the country grew so fast that the Thames, the Tyne, and the Mersey were filled with forests of masts, borne by ships that sailed to and from every part of the world.

9. But goods, when they are made, cannot be cheaply sold where they are wanted, unless there be a cheap and easy means of transport from the place of making to the place of selling, or to the port for shipping them abroad. In 1757 a great engineer named James Brindley joined Manchester with Liverpool, its port, by a canal which crossed the river Irwell on a lofty bridge. He thus led the way in forming a system of water-carriage, which soon crossed the country by 3000 miles of canals.

10. The roads were much improved towards the end of George III.'s reign by the skill of a Scotchman named Macadam. He showed men how to make and keep roads hard and firm by covering them with granite broken into small pieces. On these canals and roads, goods which had hitherto

been taken, at a vast expense, through muddy lanes upon the backs of horses, were now cheaply removed from place to place by boat and waggon.

PROGRESS OF BRITAIN FROM 1714 TILL 1820 (*Continued*).

1. In this same age, by conquest and discovery alike, the British Empire was much enlarged. In India our power greatly grew under the rule of Warren Hastings, Lord Cornwallis, and the Marquess Wellesley, brother of the Duke of Wellington.

2. In the course of the great war we became masters of the Cape of Good Hope, Malta, and other places of value. New lands of settlement for colonists were either first found or first explored, by the famous Captain James Cook. Among these may be named the Society Islands, the Sandwich Islands, New Zealand, and New South Wales, in Australia.

3. In George III.'s reign Dr. Jenner gave a death-blow to the power of the dreadful disease called small-pox, by using the means called vaccination. Sir Humphry Davy, in 1815, invented the safety-lamp for coal-mines, which keeps the explosive gas among the coal from coming into contact with the flame within the lamp. About the same time the gas made from coal began to be used for lighting our streets, public halls, and houses.

4. When we come to tell of famous writers in this Georgian age we find many great names.

Among the poets of the earlier time we have Pope and Gray and Goldsmith. As writers of the tales called novels, we find Richardson and Fielding, Smollett and Sterne. In history we have Robertson and Gibbon.

5. One of the greatest works is that called *The Wealth of Nations*, by the Scotsman Adam Smith. The famous Dr. Johnson died in 1784. Among the later poets of the age are Burns and Byron, Campbell and Coleridge, Shelley, Moore, and Scott. Sir Walter Scott is greater still for his historical and romantic tales—known as *The Waverley Novels*, from the name of the first of the series.

6. It was under George II. that a school, as it is called, of great British painters first arose. Among those who have copied the faces of their fellow men and women with beauty and with life-like skill, we have William Hogarth, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and Thomas Gainsborough. Sir David Wilkie, the Scotchman, was famous for scenes of village life; and Richard Wilson, David Cox, Gainsborough, and Turner rank among the best of landscape-painters.

7. Under the first three Georges, many great public works and institutions were established. In the reign of George I., the noble charity called Guy's Hospital was founded by a bookseller of that name. In 1750, a new bridge was built across the Thames at Westminster. The famous Eddystone Lighthouse, flashing safety to the countless ships that come up Channel, was erected in 1759. In the same year, the British Museum displayed the begin-

nings of its wonderful and priceless treasures. Under George III., Blackfriars, Waterloo, and Southwark bridges were built to meet the wants caused by the growth of London on both banks of her river.

GEORGE IV. AND WILLIAM IV

1. On the death of the old king, George III., his eldest son, George, Prince of Wales, and Prince Regent since 1811, became king as George IV. He was a bad man in his private life, and as a ruler counts for very little. He would have done mischief if he could have had his own way: but the times were not those of the Tudors or Stuarts, and he had ministers much wiser and abler than himself.

2. Many years before this he had quarrelled with his wife, a German princess, known in our history as Queen Caroline of Brunswick. They had long lived apart, and she had for years been on the Continent. In 1820 she came back to England and claimed her rights as queen-consort.

3. The king then accused her of misconduct, and tried to get a divorce from her by means of a *Bill of Pains and Penalties* brought into the House of Lords. Great feeling on each side was aroused in the nation. Many sided with the queen because they hated the king, and many more because they thought her to be an innocent and ill-used woman.

4. Only nine more peers voted for her guilt than the number who declared her to be not guilty. The ministers then, in face of the public feeling, did not

dare to go further. In July, 1821, when the king was crowned, she went to the door of Westminster Abbey and was refused admission.

5. A few days afterwards she died, and when her body was being removed from London to be taken abroad for burial, serious riots took place. The soldiers had orders to prevent the body from being taken through certain streets, and some lives were lost in the tumult.

6. In 1822, a famous man, Mr. Peel (afterwards Sir Robert Peel), became one of the ministers, and it was he who set on foot the new police force in London. From his names the men have been long known by the vulgar nicknames of "bobbies" and "peelers."

Some good was done in home-affairs at this time. The burden of taxes was made less, and the country grew in wealth.

7. In 1828 the Duke of Wellington became prime-minister, and the question of freedom for the Catholics came to the front. They had been shut out from Parliament and public offices since the days of Charles II. A famous Irishman, named Daniel O'Connell, took up their cause with such success that it seemed certain to lead to a civil war in Ireland. Wellington and Peel at last gave way, and in 1829 Catholics, by a new Act, obtained the right to sit in either House, and to hold any office except those of regent, Viceroy (or Lord-lieutenant) of Ireland, Lord-chancellor of England, and Lord-chancellor of Ireland. In 1867, we may here note, the office of Lord-chancellor of Ireland was thrown open to them.

8. Affairs abroad in this reign are to be noticed for the freedom gained by Greece from Turkish rule. Our great poet, Lord Byron, had written much in their favour in some of the finest passages of his best works, and in 1824 he went out to fight against the Turks in their behalf.

9. He soon died, but the English government took up their cause, along with France and Russia. In October, 1827, a battle, said to have been caused by a chance cannon shot, took place in the harbour of Navarino, in the south of Greece. There the English, French, and Russian ships knocked to pieces a powerful Turkish fleet, and in 1829 Greece became a free country, as she has since remained.

10. In 1830 the Duke of Clarence, third son of George III., became king as William IV. He was not a good or a wise man, but was far better than his brother George. He had the manners and speech of a "sailor-prince," which had been his calling in youth and middle age. His queen, the German Princess Adelaide, was a good woman, much beloved and esteemed. Their only children, two daughters, had died at an early age, and thus the way to the throne was left open for Queen Victoria.

WILLIAM IV. (*Continued*).

REFORM—ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE.

1. The first great event of the reign of William IV. was the passing of the Reform Act in 1832. The



The Reform Bill of 1832 receiving the King's Assent by Royal Commission.

state of things in the House of Commons has been described before. It had now become such as the people of Britain would no longer endure, and it was clear that a change, by law or by force, must come.

2. The Duke of Wellington was against all change, and was for a time greatly disliked by many of the nation. The chief men in favour of the reform of the House of Commons were the prime-minister, Earl Grey, and Lord John Russell (the late Earl Russell).

3. In 1831 the new proposals were passed in the House of Commons by a large majority, but the House of Lords threw them out. Then great riots took place at Nottingham, Derby, and Bristol, and things were in a dangerous state.

4. In March, 1832, the *Reform Bill* passed the Commons again, but was again opposed in the Lords. The peers gave way at last, in order to prevent a civil war, and on June 7th the bill became the *Reform Act* on having the assent of the king.

5. By this Act the chief power in the state passed from the nobles and other land-owners to the great middle class. The two great changes made were, firstly, in the places sending members to the House of Commons; secondly, in the number of the voters, which was largely increased.

6. No town having less than 2000 people could now return a member at all. No town with less than 4000 could have two members. Fifty-six towns thus lost their member or members altogether, and thirty-one more lost one member.

7. Several large towns, such as Birmingham, Leeds, and Manchester, had now each two members, and nearly fifty new boroughs in all were created. Great changes were also made in the counties and in London. As to the voters, all tenants paying a yearly rent of £50, and all owners of property worth £10 a year, in counties, had now votes for members of the Commons. In towns, all householders could vote who paid a rent of £10 a year or upwards.

8. This great and peaceful revolution in the government of Britain was followed by many good changes in the law. In 1833 an act was passed which put an end to slavery in our colonies and in all parts of the British Empire. The slave-owners had £20,000,000 paid them for the loss of the forced service of their slaves, who now became free workmen.

9. In 1835 a great change was made in the management of our towns by the *Municipal Reform Act*. Up to that time the local rulers of the towns had been small bodies of men chosen by their own friends, who were already aldermen or councillors. The ratepayers, which means the great body of the citizens or householders who find the money for local purposes, had now the right given them of choosing the town-councillors who were to spend it.

10. In 1836 a Marriage Act gave to Dissenters the right of being married in their own chapels, by their own ministers, instead of being forced to go to the Episcopal Church for that purpose.

VICTORIA.

PROGRESS UNDER VICTORIA.

1. On the death of William IV. at Windsor, on June 20th, 1837, the Princess Victoria, only child of the Duke of Kent, fourth son of George III., came to the throne. She was just over the legal age of eighteen years, having been born on May 24th, 1819.

2. The crown of Hanover could not, by the law of that country, be worn by a woman, and it now passed to the Duke of Cumberland, fifth son of George III. We were well rid of it, as its loss kept us out of all troubles which it might have brought. Hanover was conquered by Prussia in 1866, and its history as a separate state there ends.

3. The new ruler was warmly welcomed to the throne by her people. It was known that her mother, the Duchess of Kent, had caused her to be well trained for the duties of her high office, and had kept her away from the evil example of some of her near relatives, and the wicked men and women who were their friends.

4. It is needless to say how fully the Queen acted up to the high hopes formed of her when she came as a young girl to the throne. Taking her as a ruler, there has been none in our whole history who more fully understood what it is to govern by the spirit and the letter of our laws.

5. There has been also none who more fully kept the oath taken at crowning, "To govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ire-

land according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same."

6. Queen Victoria's reign has made a deep mark in history. For more than sixty years it was a time of great advance in science, art, trade, manufactures, learning, wealth, and good conduct among the mass of the nation.

7. Like every age since the world began, it had its faults and follies; but the Victorian age will surely shine on history's page as one of vast improvement in all that belongs to human progress and happiness.

8. The numbers of our people in the British Isles are now (1901) close upon 41,000,000. The railways, begun in 1829 by the opening of the line from Liverpool to Manchester, have covered the land with 22,000 miles of road for travel, as safe as it is swift and cheap. The penny postage, mainly due to the efforts of Sir Rowland Hill, was begun in 1840. The electric wires that run over the land and under the sea to so many parts of the globe, have made the world like one parish for news of what goes on.

9. The power of steam and, later, of electricity has done wonders. Now, great steamers force their way against the wind, across all seas. Steam prints the newspaper, ploughs the field, reaps the harvest, threshes the corn, grinds it and makes the flour into bread and biscuits; while electricity lights our cities, and enables us to transact business with people, without regard to the distance between us.

10. Above all, the reign of Victoria was a time of

good for the great mass of the people. The chief power in the state came then into their hands, and the voters, the manhood of the nation, can now choose the men who are to rule them.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

THE CHARTISTS—CORN-LAW.

1. A short account of some of the chief laws passed in Victoria's reign will show us what the nation gained in the space of sixty-three years. The early years of the reign were a time of much trouble and distress, and of some disorder amongst the working-class.

2. The Reform Act of 1832 had given a large share of power to the middle class, but most of the working-men had no vote in choosing members of the House of Commons. In 1838 a great meeting was held at Birmingham, and a movement was thus begun amongst the class of reformers known as *Chartists*. The chief points of the People's Charter, which they called on Parliament to make into law, were voting by ballot (or secret voting by a paper put into a box); universal suffrage (every man not a pauper or lunatic to have a vote); payment of a salary to members of the House of Commons; and equal electoral districts.

3. That these demands had much reason in them is proved by the fact that the first has long been granted; the second has nearly been reached; and

the fourth has been nearly given in the changes made by the last Reform Act of 1884.

4. The Chartists were simply men who were ahead of the time in asking for what was wise and just. Some of them were, however, so foolish as to try and use force. At Newport, in Monmouthshire, there was loss of life in a fight with the soldiers, and the ringleader, John Frost, and two others, were convicted and transported for life. Many other Chartists, some of them men of high education and character, were unjustly imprisoned for speeches in which they asked for what they wanted, without any thought of breaking the law.

5. Distress among the working-class became worse in 1837 and 1838 through bad harvests and slack trade. The main cause of the evil that existed was the corn-law, which put a high duty on corn brought in from abroad, and kept the price of wheat never less than seventy shillings a quarter, or more than double what it is now.

6. Thus the poor man paid for his bread twice what he does now, and at the same time wages were far lower. This law had been passed to put money in the pockets of the farmers who grew the corn, and to enrich the land-owners, who made the farmers pay them high rents. A number of good men in and out of Parliament resolved to bring the corn-duties to an end.

7. Mr. C. P. Villiers took up the cause in the House of Commons, and struggled year after year in vain. In 1838 the famous *Anti-Corn-law League* was started at Manchester to bring the matter fully

before the nation. The chief men engaged in this were Mr. Richard Cobden and Mr. John Bright, who had, in different ways, great power as public speakers. Large sums of money were raised, and papers were sent out by the new penny post, and meetings were held, year after year, all over the country.

8. The land-owners did all they could to oppose the movement, but the good cause grew stronger. Cobden and Bright were both chosen to the House of Commons, and kept the matter ever before the face of the prime-minister, Sir Robert Peel. At last a dreadful event in Ireland brought the case of the corn-laws to a head. The crop of potatoes, almost the only food of the small farmers and labourers in Ireland, was destroyed by disease in 1845. For two years a dreadful famine raged there, and many thousands of people died of hunger, in spite of all efforts from England and America to send them food in time.

9. Sir Robert Peel had, long before this, made up his mind that the corn-law must come to an end, and the Irish trouble gave him strong reasons for bringing the matter forward. In 1846 the act was passed by which the duty on wheat, oats, barley, and rye was to be at once lowered, and to cease for ever in 1849.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

FREEDING OF TRADE—LEGISLATION.

1. Sir Robert Peel had before this done much in the direction of free-trade. High duties had been

paid at our custom-houses on many things much used in our manufactures, and on many other things, besides corn, that formed part of the food of the people. In 1842 and 1843, the duties were taken off several hundreds of these articles, and the system of free-trade was set up, which has helped so vastly to increase the wealth of the country and the comfort of the mass of the people.

2. In 1849 and 1854 another great reform came. This was the repeal of the *navigation laws*, which had been passed by the Long Parliament, two hundred years before, to injure the trade of our rivals, the Dutch. By these laws no goods could be brought to British ports, from any country out of Europe, except in British ships, or from any country in Europe, except in British ships or ships of the country where the goods were made. The whole of our ports were now thrown open to foreign ships, and the only result has been that the merchant shipping of Britain is now equal to that of all the rest of the world put together.

3. In 1853 Mr. Gladstone, then chancellor of the exchequer for the first time, took the duty off soap, greatly reduced the duty on tea, and removed or reduced the charge on hundreds of other articles of food. The lowering of taxes has thus far been followed by a great growth of revenue caused by the increase of trade.

4. In 1867 a large share of power in choosing the real rulers of the country, the members of the House of Commons, was given, by the *second Reform Act*, to the working men of the towns. By

this measure the number of voters was raised from about $1\frac{1}{2}$ millions to $2\frac{1}{2}$ millions.

5. Scotland now had sixty members instead of fifty-three. All towns having less than 10,000 people now had but one member, and the great towns of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, and Glasgow had three members instead of two.

6. Many new county divisions were made. The *third Reform Act*, of 1884, did for the labourers in the country what that of 1867 had done for those in the towns. It raised the number of electors in the United Kingdom to nearly six millions: as every farm-workman, living in a separate cottage, has now a vote for a county member.

7. Scotland, on account of her growth in numbers, now has seventy-two members. A large number of small towns lost their single member, and became part of the county divisions, and the larger towns now have members in about the proportion of one to every 60,000 people. Thus Leeds has five; Birmingham seven; Sheffield five; Glasgow seven; and Liverpool nine. London is now divided into districts, each with one member (except the City, which has two), and the number of her members being largely increased, sends sixty-two men to speak her mind in the House of Commons.

8. The working-men also gained much more power by the Trade Union Act of 1871, which allowed them freely to form trades' unions and join their efforts to promote their own welfare. Much of the best history of the reign of Victoria has to do with the laws passed to protect the weak

against the thoughtless or wanton cruelty of the strong.

9. In 1842 the late "good Lord Shaftesbury", as he is called, obtained the passing of an act to stop the employment of women and children in coal-mines, where the helpless suffered much wrong. Many other good laws were made also to protect working-people from danger, disease, and over-work in the places where they earn their bread.

10. The toilers can now put away money in the Post-office Savings-banks, and millions of pounds have thus been saved.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

STAMP DUTIES—EDUCATION ACT—RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, &c.

1. During this period compulsory and, later, free education was established, and cheap books, newspapers, and popular lectures brought information within the reach of all.

2. Much that is false and foolish may be found in books and newspapers, and some of the matter printed is very bad indeed. But in spite of that, cheap books, cheap newspapers, and above all, the cheap and good teaching given in the elementary schools, formed together one of the chief glories of the Victorian age.

3. When the Queen came to the throne, light was kept from the minds of the people, or made scarce and dear, by what have been called the taxes

on knowledge. A stamp duty of one penny (it was fourpence till 1836) was placed on every newspaper, and a penny or halfpenny newspaper was, of course, a thing unknown. A duty of one-and-sixpence on every advertisement in a newspaper stood in the way of trade and of the profits of newspaper owners. A duty on paper made cheap books and papers impossible.

4. Between 1853 and 1862 all these taxes were swept away by Mr. Gladstone. The change made as to newspapers can be very easily shown. In 1846, the United Kingdom had 551 newspapers. Of these, 14 were issued daily. In 1887, there were 2135 newspapers, of which 186 were daily issues—145 in England, 5 in Wales, 20 in Scotland, 15 in Ireland, and 1 in Jersey. Beside these, there are many hundreds of magazines, of which nearly 400 are of a religious character.

5. In 1870, the *Elementary Education Act* was passed, and in its amended form it has brought millions of children into thousands of new, good, and now free schools. One of the chief effects of this has been that our prisons have almost been emptied of young criminals, a class that used to be a curse and a shame to the country.

6. Much, too, was done in the way of completing religious freedom. In 1858 Jews were, for the first time, allowed to take their seats in Parliament. Since 1868 Dissenters have no longer been forced to pay rates for the support of the Church of England. In 1880 they were allowed, for the first time, to bury their dead relatives and friends in the parish

graveyard without the help of a minister of the Episcopal Church. In 1871 they were admitted to take degrees at Oxford and Cambridge Universities. In 1869 the Protestant church in Ireland was dis-established, or put on a level with the Catholic Church there. Thereby the causes of much reasonable discontent among the Irish Catholics were removed.

7. We may end this account by stating that, during the reign of Victoria also, the shameful punishment of flogging in the army and navy was abolished

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

CHINESE WARS—WARS IN AFRICA.

1. We must now give a short account of other events of the reign, and of the growth of the empire abroad. There were many small wars, in some cases caused by the mistaken policy of the people who govern us. Among these may be named the first Chinese War of 1839, caused by our trying to force the drug called opium on the Chinese people against the orders of their government. In the end we took the island of Hong-Kong.

2. In 1856, the second Chinese War was caused by our anger at the seizure near Canton of a Chinese vessel flying the British flag. She was nothing but a pirate that, for her own safety, was showing British colours. She had no right to do so, and the Chinese officers were quite right to take

the vessel in charge. But the British fleet attacked Canton, and burnt many houses and ships. The end of it was that in June, 1858, the Chinese agreed to open several of their ports to our trade, and to allow British subjects to go to any part of China.

3. A third Chinese War, in 1859, was caused, as it seems, by the bad faith of the Chinese as to the treaty just named. At first our men were driven back with great loss in an attack on the forts at the mouth of the Peiho River. But in 1860, an English and French army took the forts, marched on Pekin, plundered and burnt the emperor's palace, and forced the Chinese to pay money for the war, and admit a British minister to reside at Pekin.

4. In 1868, the power of Britain was proved, and some just fame was gained, by rapid and complete success in the Abyssinian War. King Theodore had made prisoners, without just cause, of over fifty British subjects, and a large force was sent from Bombay.

5. It was under the charge of Sir Robert (the late Lord) Napier, and the chief difficulty lay in the march of 400 miles inland, from the port in the Red Sea to Magdala, the king's fortress. The road was very rugged, and the force of 12,000 men had to make its way over heights in some places two miles above sea-level.

6. The army of Theodore was soon beaten when the end of the march was reached, and the king, in his first dismay, sent us back the prisoners. The fortress of Magdala was then taken by our troops, and, at the moment of their entry, the unhappy

Theodore shot himself dead just inside the gate. His son was brought to England and kindly treated, but he soon pined away and died.

7. In 1874, we had a short war with the powerful native chief in Western Africa called the King of



Magdala.

Ashantee. He attacked some of our native friends on the Gold Coast, and a British force was sent out under Sir Garnet (now Lord) Wolseley. Some hard fighting took place on the march inland, but the king's capital, Coomassie, was taken and burned.

8. In 1878, we had trouble with the Zulus, a powerful native tribe in South Africa, ruled by a

man of much ability and courage named Cetewayo. He thought himself unjustly treated by the British governor, Sir Bartle Frere, and the result was a war in which our troops were at first roughly handled. A division of our army under Lord Chelmsford was surprised and almost destroyed by the Zulus. In the end the Zulus were utterly beaten, and Cetewayo was brought to London as a prisoner in 1882.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

BOER WAR—EGYPTIAN WAR—CRIMEAN WAR.

1. After a short struggle, in 1880, the Boers in the Transvaal were allowed to manage their own affairs, under British suzerainty. They never kept the agreement they had made; but seized every opportunity of injuring British trade and wronging British subjects. A petition to the Queen from over 20,000 of her subjects in the Transvaal led to British interference on their behalf. The Boers refused the British demands, and invaded Natal and Cape Colony, in 1899. In 1900 the capitals of the two Boer States were captured, and the Orange River State and Transvaal were proclaimed British territory.

2. In 1882, we had work for our soldiers and sailors provided in Egypt. Our interest in that country had been much increased by our purchase, in 1875, of about half the shares in the famous Suez Canal. A rising took place at Alexandria, headed by a man named Arabi Pasha, and many French and English were killed. Our fleet, with

its great guns, destroyed the forts, and landed a force of men, but not until the mob had killed over 2000 Europeans in a fresh tumult.

3. Then Sir Garnet Wolseley was sent out with a large force, and in September Arabi was utterly defeated in the battle of Tel-el-Kebir. Cairo was taken, and Arabi sent as a prisoner to Ceylon. Since that time a British force has garrisoned Egypt.

4. The war in Egypt led to some desperate battles. General Gordon was killed and Khartoum captured by the rebels in 1885. For fourteen years the Soudan was wasted by savage fanatics, and then, in 1898, Lord Kitchener completely defeated them at Omdurman, and began the establishment of order in the British and Egyptian Soudan.

5. The one great war of the reign in Europe has been that known as the Russian or Crimean War. In 1853, the Emperor Nicholas of Russia sent a large army to invade Turkey; and England and France took up arms to defend her.

6. War was declared in 1854, and, in September of that year, an allied English and French force landed on the western coast of the Crimea. On the 20th, the battle of the Alma, fought for the heights above that since famous stream, ended in the Russian army being driven back on the great fortress of Sebastopol.

7. Then came nearly twelve months' siege of the place, which was defended by the Russians with wonderful bravery and skill. At the battle of Inkermann, one of the greatest names on the British

soldier's roll of fame, we drove back, with a little help from the French, a far greater Russian force.

8. This was on November 5th. A few days before that, the battle of Balaklava (including the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade") had shown the



Night in the Trenches before Sebastopol.

world that British cavalry were among the best for daring, as Inkermann proved that our foot are the bravest of the brave.

9. Again and again the forts of Sebastopol were bombarded by the English and French guns. In the winter of 1854, we lost thousands of men by

the cold, through the want of proper management. In June, the British and French troops were defeated in several attacks on the Russian works. Still the allies put up fresh cannon, and continued their fire. In August, a large Russian army was beaten outside the town by the French, Turks, and Sardinians at the battle of Traktir Bridge. At last, in September, 1855, after three days' tremendous firing, the French troops took one of the chief forts; while the British took, but could not hold, the powerful work called the Redan.

10. During the night of September 8th, the Russians retired to the north side of the harbour, across a bridge of boats. They had, long before this, sunk most of their fleet to block up the harbour, and they blew up their forts on the south before they left.

11. The allies destroyed the splendid docks with gunpowder, and the great Black Sea fortress of Sebastopol was made a ruin. Not much was done in other scenes of warfare, and peace came in April, 1856.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

THE GREAT EXHIBITION—PROGRESS OF THE COUNTRY.

1. Turning now to peaceful and domestic events, we have to tell that, in 1840, the queen married one of the best of men, her cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. He was of great service to her and the nation during all his life among us, which ended by fever in December, 1861.

2. To him was due the delightful and instructive show in Hyde Park, called the Great Exhibition of 1851. There works of art and industry of all nations were gathered in a very large building, made wholly of glass and iron.

3. This charming erection, well called the *Crystal Palace*, covered twenty acres of ground, and the roof of its transept shut in some trees of great height. Its iron girders and sheets of glass were afterwards used to build the Crystal Palace on the heights of Sydenham.

4. In 1852, the Duke of Wellington died, at the age of eighty-three. The hero of the Peninsular War and of Waterloo lay in state at Chelsea Hospital; and a grand funeral procession, including six thousand soldiers, took his remains to their place of rest in Saint Paul's Cathedral.

5. Before turning to our colonial empire, we may mention some of the chief men in power as ministers during the reign, besides those already named. Lord Palmerston died, after sixty years in the House of Commons, in 1865. He was then prime-minister for the second time.

6. The Earl of Derby, three times chief minister for short periods, died in 1869. The Earl of Beaconsfield (Mr. Disraeli), twice prime-minister, died in 1881. He was one of the most noted men of the age, who had fought his way with much courage and skill through great obstacles to the height of political power and fame. Lord John Russell, twice prime-minister, died (as Earl Russell) at a great age in 1878.

7. In 1858, Queen Victoria's eldest daughter, the Princess Royal, was married to the Prussian Prince, who became the Emperor Frederick of Germany, and left her a widow in 1888. Her son, Emperor William II., is thus grandson of Queen Victoria. In 1861, the nation and the Queen had to bear a grievous loss in the death of Prince Albert. In 1863, Queen Victoria's eldest son was married to the Princess Alexandra of Denmark.

8. The year 1887 was marked by the celebration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. On June 20th, she had completed the fiftieth year of her reign, and great rejoicings took place all through the empire. On June 21st, the Queen went in procession from Buckingham Palace to Westminster Abbey, to attend a service of thanksgiving amidst a crowd of people gathered from all parts of the civilized world.

9. The Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897 were celebrated with even greater splendour and more wide-spread rejoicings. Troops from all parts of the vast and scattered empire took part in the procession which accompanied the Queen to St. Paul's, where a thanksgiving ceremony was held. The Indian and Colonial troops were greatly cheered by the people on the route.

10. Wide-spread as the rejoicing was in 1897, the grief in 1901, when, after a reign of sixty-three years, the Queen died, was even more remarkable. Victoria reigned longer than any monarch who ever sat upon the English throne. No monarch was ever so beloved by the people. In no reign had progress been so remarkable. The name of

Victoria the Good will long be held in reverent and affectionate memory.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

AFFAIRS IN INDIA.

1. Our Indian Empire, under George IV., had grown by the conquest of Lower Burmah. Under Victoria, many great events have taken place in her eastern dominions. We pass over wars in Afghanistan, brought on by rash meddling, and once ending in great disaster.

2. In the two Sikh Wars of 1845-46 and 1848-49 we met, in the Sikhs, the bravest foes we ever had to deal with in India. The result was the conquest of the country known as the Punjab, in the north-west of India. The Sikhs have ever since remained faithful to our rule, and were of great service to us in the terrible struggle of 1857-58 known as the Indian Mutiny, or Sepoy Mutiny, or Sepoy War.

3. Sepoy is the name given to a native soldier of our Indian army. In 1857, a number of princes in India formed a plan for driving us, as they hoped, out of the land. They caused a large part of the native army in Bengal to revolt, and the English officers were murdered at many of the military posts.

4. The whole British force in India was then far too small, and for a time British rule was in great danger. The rebels took the city of Delhi, and a native prince, named Nana Sahib, cruelly murdered

many English men, women, and children in the two massacres of Cawnpore. Fifty thousand native soldiers were in arms against us, and a far larger force still, of loose ruffians, and men in the pay of native princes, was swarming over Northern India.

5. It was the famous march of General Havelock that struck the first blows in our favour. He started from Allahabad, early in July, with but two thousand British and Sikh troops. He was marching for Cawnpore, and overthrew all the rebels who came in his way.

6. Nana Sahib fled from Cawnpore, and Havelock came up with and defeated him, and then made for Lucknow, where thousands of rebels surrounded a few hundreds of English. They were too strong to deal with then, but Havelock was joined by Sir James Outram with fresh troops, and the British fought their way into Lucknow, to be kept prisoners there for a time by the vast forces of the enemy.

7. In September, Delhi was taken by our troops after six days' fighting in the streets, and our position was thereby much strengthened. Sir Colin Campbell, an old Peninsular soldier (the late Lord Clyde), had come out from England to take the chief command.

8. The fall of Delhi set free a large force of our men, and Lucknow, after a four days' battle, was taken with great loss of the rebels. The brave Havelock died of disease a few days after this victory. In a few months more the mutiny was quelled, and in August, 1858, an act of Parliament made an end of the old rulers of India, the East India Company.

9. Since then India has been governed by a Vice-roy or Governor-General living in India, and by a Secretary for India at home, with a council of advisers to aid him. Roads, railways, schools, telegraphs, and a proper way of meeting the famines caused from time to time by want of rain, are amongst the good things done for the three hundred millions of people whom we rule in our Eastern Empire.

VICTORIA (*Continued*).

EXTENSION OF THE EMPIRE—LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

1. A new Britain has now arisen, chiefly during the last fifty years, on the opposite side of the globe. There, in Australia and New Zealand, south of the equator, the seasons of the year are the reverse of ours. Five millions of people, subjects of the Crown, live beneath the Southern Cross, as their chief heavenly sign is called, instead of under the Great Bear which we behold. For them the north winds blow in heat from the torrid zone, while the south wind comes keen with frost, from the icy regions of Antarctic seas.

2. The time for cricket, with our Australian cousins, who have so often shown their skill among us, is in the months which form our winter; and they keep the festival of Christmas at out-door banquets, spread beneath the shade of trees that give a welcome shelter from December's scorching sun. Gold, wool, wheat, and mutton are the chief

products of our kinsmen's land, and we exchange with these the skilled work of the artisans at home.

3. Great progress has also been made in North America, in what is now called the Dominion of Canada. The province, conquered from the French by Wolfe in 1759, has now spread right across to the Pacific shores, where we find British Columbia rich in timber, gold, and coal, and Vancouver's Island with its fertile soil. The chief wealth of this vast region lies in corn, metals, timber, fisheries, furs, beef, and mutton. The people number over four millions.

4. The colony of the Cape of Good Hope became ours, by conquest from the Dutch, in 1806. To this have since been added the settlements of Natal and Kaffirland, and other territory taken from the natives by war or purchase. From Southern Africa we now get a vast amount of wool for our mills, with sugar, coffee, ivory, diamonds, and hides.

5. In every quarter of the globe our empire spreads through trade or conquest. Another India is ours on the eastern side of the Bay of Bengal. The last gain there was that of Upper Burmah, joined to our empire in 1886 by conquest from its king, Theebau.

6. In every branch of science and literature, and in some branches of art, we have great names to show among the workers of the last sixty years. Herschel, Adams, and Airy in astronomy; Lyell, Miller, and Murchison in geology; Faraday in electrical and other science; Owen and Huxley in natural history, are names known to all the world.

7. George Stephenson is famous for all time as

the maker of the first really practical railway-engine. This was the *Rocket*, still shown in the museum at South Kensington.

8. In painting, Turner, Landseer, David Cox, Stanfield, and Millais have well upheld our fame. As for writers, we have, or lately had, among poets, Browning and his wife, and Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Among writers of tales of every kind, some of the greatest men in our literature have charmed the readers of the present reign. It is only needful to name Dickens, Thackeray, the lady who called herself George Eliot, Captain Marryat, Charlotte Brontë, and Charles Kingsley. Thomas Hood, the author of the *Song of the Shirt*, is great in moving both to laughter and to tears. John Ruskin was among the greatest writers upon art.

9. In historians, this last period of British history has been very rich. It is needful only to name the men. Carlyle, Kinglake, Napier, Grote, Hallam, Freeman, Froude, Macaulay, and the late John Richard Green, the author of *A Short History of the English People*, which every Englishman should read, are writers of the highest order in their own varied styles.

10. The work of these men is not likely to be soon forgotten, and the best of it is certain to be read with delight and profit, as long as this great empire and its language, spreading now through all the world, maintain their ever-growing and unequalled sway.

voyage; journey by sea. (O.F. *veiage*; L. *viaticum*, provisions for a *via*, journey.)

astronomer; one who studies the stars and other heavenly bodies. (Gk. *astron*, a star; *nome*, distribution.)

planets; moving stars. (Gk. *planētes*, a wanderer.)

definite; exactly known.

originally; at first. (L. *origo*; *oriri*, to rise.)

Henry VIII.

cardinal; chief official in the Roman Catholic Church, next to the Pope.

talents; the *talent* is properly a sum of money; but from the parable in St. Matt. xxv it has got the meaning of natural powers of mind.

merits; good qualities. (L. *meritus*, from *mereo*, I deserve.)

navy; the whole number of ships of war. (L. *navis*, a ship.)

de Dieu; of God. (F.)

beacons; lights lit on high places as signals.

pilots; men who guide ships into or out of harbours.

ally; connection by marriage or treaty. (L. *ad*, to; *ligare*, to bind.)

Henry VIII. (cont.).

maid of honour; a lady who waits on a queen or princess.

divorce; complete separation. (L. *divortium*, turning different ways.)

Catholic; the form of religion held by the *Catholics*, who look up to the Pope as their head. (So called because it once used to be the religion of all Christians; Gk. *katholikos*, belonging to the whole.)

Protestants; name given generally to those who disagreed with the Catholic form of faith. (L. *protestari*, to bear witness publicly.)

null and void; illegal and not binding. (L. *nullus*, none; *viduus*, empty.)

alms; money given out of pity to the poor. (O.E. *ælmæsse*; L. *eleemosyna*; Gk. *eleēmosyne*, pity.)

convent; dwelling-place of nuns (female monks). (L. *conventus*, a meeting.)

doctrine; teaching.

Edward VI.—Mary—Elizabeth.

confidence; trust in herself and in her ministers.

prudence; habit of thinking well before acting. (L. *providentia*, foresight.)

uniformity; oneness in form.

standard; something set up as a pattern.

Elizabeth (cont.).—Philip II., &c.

Netherlands; Holland and Belgium. (So called because they are lower (O.E. *nether*) in some parts than the sea-level.)

revenue; money received by the king. (L. *re*, back; *ventum*, come.)

breathing again; after a fight a man takes breath to recover himself; so a nation is said to *breathe again* when it ceases from struggle.

bull; an order signed and sealed by the Pope. (L. *bullā*, a round seal.)

Elizabeth (cont.).—The Armada, &c.

Armada; armed fleet (Span.).

invincible; not to be conquered. (L. *in*, not; *vincere*, to conquer.)

Bodleian Library; founded originally by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester (son of Henry IV.), but called after *Sir Thomas Bodley*, who enlarged it in 1610. To it must be sent a copy of every book published in this country.

Bard of Avon; Shakespeare was born at *Stratford-on-Avon*. (Keltic *bard*, a poet.)

James I.

shrewdness; sharpness, quickness.

wit; cleverness in saying new and striking things.

Christendom; the countries where the Christian religion is believed.

limit; boundary. (L. *limitem*.)

James I. (cont.).

debate; arguing in speeches. (F. *debattre*, from L. *de*, down; *batere*, to beat.)

in the main; as to the greater part.

republic; a country in which the chief rulers are chosen by the people. (L. *res*, a matter; *publica*, belonging to the people.)

Charles I.

untimely; not happening naturally, but before the proper time.

absolute; quite unbounded. (L. *ab*, from; *solutum*, loosed.)

loans; money lent.

deprived of; had taken from him.

(*L. de*, away; *privus*, separated.)

exiled; sent away from the country.

(*L. ex*, out of; *solum*, ground.)

assent; agreement. (*L. ad*, to; *sentire*, think.)

duties; money paid on goods that come into one country from another.

custom-house; the place (at a port or harbour) where the duties are taken.

champion; one who fights or works for something.

Charles I. (cont.).—Star Chamber, &c.

despotic; free from control. (*Gk. despotēs*, a master.)

brute force; not persuasion, like reasonable men, but violence, like animals.

president; the head man of a society. (*L. prae*, before; *sedentem*, sitting.)

independently; not controlled. (Judges are now appointed by the Lord Chancellor, who is one of the government which the greater part of the nation have elected.)

Charles I. (cont.).—Covenant in Scotland, &c.

covenant; agreement under solemn promise.

assembly; body of people met together.

liturgy; set form of public prayer. (*Gk. leitourgia*, public service.)

discuss; talk thoroughly about. (*L. discussus*, shaken apart.)

altars; communion tables. (*Altar* really means a raised place on which sacrifices were offered; *L. altare*, a high place.)

crucifix; a figure of Christ on the cross.

records; papers containing an account of things that happened. (*L. recordare*, to recall to mind.)

attainder; a form of accusation in which both houses of parliament demanded judgment from the king.

Charles I. (cont.).—The Rebellion.

resign; give up.

totally; altogether. (*L. totus*, whole.)

End of Charles I. —Cromwell.

vigour; activity and success. (*L. vigere*, to be lively.)

bigots; men who, without reason enough, believe themselves right and every one else wrong.

ague; a fever accompanied with cold fits and shaking. (*L. acutum*, sharp.)

Charles II.—The Restoration.

revile; use scornful language about.

Presbyterianism; form of church government in which affairs are managed by elders. (*Gk. presbyteros*.)

reckless; careless. (*O.E. recan*, to care.)

revealed; done away with.

Charles II. (cont.).—Habeas Corpus Act, &c.

disaster; misfortune. (*L. dis*, ill; *astrum*, a star; misfortunes were called *disasters* because they were supposed to be caused by unfavourable stars.)

abated; became less. (*F. abattre*.)

Gothic; a style of architecture, with high and sharply-pointed arches.

Charles II. (cont.).—Great Fire.

diary; a daily account of events. (*L. dies*, a day.)

aspect; appearance. (*L. aspectum*, looked at.)

hideous; dreadful, fearful to see.

dismal; gloomy, dreary, dense, sorrowful; probably from Icelandic, *dimmr*, dark.

resemblance; likeness.

Charles II. (cont.).—War with the Dutch.

suspending; making to leave off for a time. (*L. suspendere*, to hang up.)

infamous; well known as of bad character. (*L. in*, bad; *fama*, report, fame.)

James II.—Tyranny of James.

pretensions; false claims. (*L. praetendere*, to stretch forward.)

proclamation; public address. (*L. pro*, publicly; *clamare*, to call out.)

artisans; those trained to work skillfully with the hands.

hapless; unfortunate. (*M. E. hap*, good luck.)

James II. (cont.).

rectors; clergymen in charge of parishes, and receiving tithes, &c. (*L. rector*, one who rules.)

vicars; clergymen also in charge of parishes, but receiving a salary instead of tithes, &c. (L. *vicarius*, put in place of.)

aghost; horror-struck. (O.E. *agæstan*, to terrify.)

vice-chancellor; the head of the university is called the *chancellor*, who appoints to act for him in his absence the head of one of the colleges, who is called *vice-chancellor*. (L. *vice*, in place of.)

fellows; men who, in reward for their successful study, are given a yearly salary and allowed to live in college rooms.

commissioners; men sent for a special purpose. (L. *commissus*, sent along with.)

Declaration of Indulgence; a statement that the king would not punish those who did not obey certain laws.

violation; breaking.

James II. (cont.).—The Seven Bishops.

malicious; spiteful.

sedition; mutinous. (L. *sed*, apart; *itum*, to go.)

verdict; decision of a jury. (L. *vere*, true; *dictum*, saying.)

massy; bulky, heavy-looking.

acquitted; declared not guilty. (L. *ad*, to; *quietus*, at rest.)

sullen; cross. (O.F. *solaine*, hating company, from L. *solus*, alone.)

James II. (cont.).—James deposed, &c.

Orange; a small state in the south of France.

desolate; lonely. (L. *desolare*, to abandon, leave alone.)

wharf; place for landing goods, as in a harbour or river. (O.E. *hwerf*, bank to keep out water.)

convention; meeting. (L. *conventum*, come together.)

formal offer; offer made in a particular way, e.g. written and signed by important men.

William and Mary.

allegiance; duty of a subject to a king.

revolution; change in the mode of government of a country. (L. *revolutum*, rolled back.)

mutiny; disobedience of soldiers or sailors to their officers.

toleration; allowing something that is not quite liked.

viscount; title lower than earl, higher than baron. (F. *vicomte*; from L. *vice*, instead of; *comte*, a count or earl. A *viscount* was at first one who acted in place of a count.)

siege; surrounding a place with an army, to force it to surrender. (F. *siège*, sitting down.)

La Hogue; cape on N. coast of France.

rout; disorderly flight. (L. *rupta*, broken off.)

bombarded; attacked with shells and shots. (O.F. *bombarde*, big gun.)

William III.

infirm; weak. (L. *in*, not; *firmus*, strong.)

conspiracy; banding together for a bad purpose. (L. *conspirare*, to breathe together.)

censors; officers who examine things put before them, particularly printed papers. (In Rome, the *censors* were officers appointed to number the people, &c.)

public opinion; that which the great body of the people think.

Queen Anne.—War with France, &c.

influence; power over people's minds. (L. *influer*, to flow into.)

politics; affairs of state. (Gk. *polis*, a state.)

alliance; a joining together. (L. *alligare*, to fasten.)

succession; the following of one king after another. (L. *succedere*, to step up into another's place.)

common enemy; that is, as much Eugene's as Marlborough's, or as much the enemy of Austria, &c., as of England.

baggage; wagons, supplies of food, gunpowder, &c.

cavalry; horse-soldiers. (L. *caballus*, a horse.)

censure; blame, finding fault with.

field of enterprise; opportunities for new ventures.

Utrecht; in the centre of Holland.

Hanover; in the west of Germany.

Great Men of Stuart Times.

immortal; never dying. (L. *im*, not; *mortalis*, dying, from *mors*, death.)

angler; one who fishes with rod and line. (O.E. *angel*, fish-hook.)

essays; short writings.

Great Men of Stuart Times (cont.).

Spectator; a penny daily paper started by Steele and Addison in 1711. It contained short and interesting essays.

physician; a skilful doctor.

circulation; flowing round. (L. *circulare*.)

mathematicians; men who study *mathematics*, the science of number and form.

botanists; men who study plants. (Gk. *botanē*, a herb.)

zoologists; men who study animals. (Gk. *zōon*, a living creature; *logos*, a discourse.)

astronomer-royal; the chief astronomer in the kingdom, paid by the government.

observatory; a building where men observe the heavens with telescopes, and take note of weather-signs, &c.

calculations; reckonings. (From L. *calculus*, a pebble, because the Romans used at first to count with pebbles.)

law of universal gravitation; that is, something which is found to occur everywhere (L. *universus*, the whole) with regard to the falling of things on the earth. (L. *gravis*, heavy.)

canvasses; pictures, because they are painted on *canvas*.

banqueting-house; room where feasts were given. (F. *banquet*, a feast.)

dome; globe-shaped ceiling. (L. *domus*, house.)

George I.

ores; metals mixed with dirt, &c.

directors; men who manage a company.

gull; cheat (from Old French *guille*, deceit).

career; course of life. (F. *carrière*, a race-course; Keltic *karr*, a chariot.)

George II.

commodore; a title given to the senior captain when two or more ships of war are cruising in company.

Cape Horn; the most southern cape of S. America.

ministry; management of the affairs of the country.

prelate; a clergyman having authority over the lower clergy; usually a bishop. (L. *prae*, before; *latum*, put.)

George II. (cont.).—William Pitt, &c.

orator; a fine speaker.

Macaulay; Thomas Babington Macaulay, essayist, poet, and historian. Born 1800; died 1859.

eminent; famous. (L. *eminens*, jutting out.)

Brittany; north-west of France.

tragedy; dreadful and fatal event. (Gk. *tragodia*, a goat-song; that is, the song sung when the goat, which destroyed the vines, was sacrificed to the wine-god Dionysus.)

sultry; stiflingly hot. (O.E. *sweltan*, to die.)

issued; came out. (O. Fr. *issir*, from L. *exire*, to go out.)

revival of religion; religion had more attention paid to it.

wrought; brought about, worked. (O.E. *wyrcan*, to work.)

George III.

represent; act on behalf of.

bribery; giving money to persuade a person to do something for one.

salary; wages. (L. *salarium*, salt-money, given to Roman soldiers to buy *sal*, salt.)

remedy; that which cures.

acquired; gained.

George III. (cont.).—Loss of American Colonies.

deeds; papers relating to property.

Philadelphia; town near the east coast of the United States.

Versailles; near Paris.

George III. (cont.).—Defence of Gibraltar, &c.

national debt; money borrowed by the government to pay the expenses of the nation.

paltry; small and of little importance. (Icelandic, *paltra*, rags.)

George III. (cont.).—Napoleon, &c.

Corsican; man of *Corsica*, island in the Mediterranean Sea west of Italy.

artillery; weapons used in war, particularly cannon.

Nile; great river of Egypt.

Copenhagen; capital of Denmark.

Amiens, Boulogne; towns in the north of France.

George III. (cont.).—Napoleon, &c.

Moravia; province in north of Austria.
rival; one who strives against another.
induced; persuaded. (L. *in*, on; *ducere*, to lead.)

traffic; trade.

decrees; orders.

Rhine; river flowing through Germany into the North Sea.

Naples; on the west coast of Italy.

repulsed; driven back. (L. *re*, back; *pulsus*, driven.)

Saragossa; town in Spain on the river Ebro.

infantry; foot-soldiers.

Corunna; town in north-west of Spain.

George III. (cont.).—Napoleon, &c.

peer; member of the House of Lords. (F. *pair*, L. *par*, equal.)

insane; out of his mind. (L. *in*, not; *sanus*, well in body and mind.)

in his stead; in his place. (O.E. *stede*, a place.)

frontier; boundary.

Pyrenees; the great chain of mountains between Spain and France.

at large; that is, with a certain amount of liberty.

duke; highest title in the English peerage. (L. *dux*, a leader.)

patents; papers which declared his titles. (L. *patere*, to be open.)

marquis; title next to duke. (O.F. *markis*, governor of a border town.)

George III. (cont.).—Battle of Waterloo.

Congress; usually a meeting of statesmen. (L. *con*, with; *gressus*, walking.)

deficient; not sufficient.

Progress of Britain.

developed; gradually became larger. (L. *devolvare*, to unroll.)

resolute; determined.

transport; carrying from one place to another. (L. *trans*, across; *portare*, to carry.)

canal; a water-course cut through the land. (L. *canalis*, a water-pipe.)

Progress of Britain (cont.).

explored; searched through.

Society Islands; in the S. Pacific Ocean.

Sandwich Islands; in the N. Pacific Ocean.

vaccination (L. *vacca*, a cow); giving cow-pox, a mild form of small-pox, by putting under the skin matter from a cow or calf, which keeps the human being from a bad attack of small-pox.

contact; touch.

novels; tales (F. *nouvelle*, L. *novus*, new.)

romantic; full of wild, fanciful, and extraordinary incidents.

school; a set of men working or thinking after the same manner.

landscape; a picture of country scenery. (Dutch *landschap*, a province.)

institutions; societies or public places founded by authority.

charity; institution founded for the purpose of helping the poor without cost to themselves. (L. *caritas*, fondness.)

museum; place where things connected with science, literature, or art are kept. (Gk. *museion*, temple of the *Muses*, the goddesses of the arts.)

George IV. and William IV.

regent; one who rules for a king. (L. *regens*, ruling.)

pains and penalties; both these words mean *punishments*. (L. *poena* and *poenalis*.)

tumult; riot, great confusion. (L. *tumere*, to swell.)

vulgar; commonly used. (L. *vulgus*, the common people.)

William IV.

majority; the greater number.

municipal; relating to a township. (L. *municipium*, a town which had its own laws.)

local; on the spot. (L. *locus*, a place.)

episcopal; governed by bishops. (L. *episcopus*, a bishop.)

Victoria.

by the spirit and letter of our laws; not only as the actual words of the laws bid, but in accordance with the idea underlying them all; viz. that every Englishman is free, &c.

electric wires; wires upon which messages are sent by means of *electricity*. (*Electricity* is so called because that peculiar power was first observed when a piece of amber (Gk. *elektron*) had been rubbed.)

Victoria (cont.).—The Chartists.

ballot; (so called from *F. ballotte*, a little ball used for voting.)
universal suffrage; (*L. suffragium*, a vote.)
equal electoral districts; divisions of the country with an equal number of electors.
transported; sent to another country.
league; a body of men banded together for a set purpose.

Victoria (cont.).—Freeing of Trade.

in the direction of; towards bringing about.
chancellor of the exchequer; minister who looks after the money of the nation.
navigation; connected with shipping. (*L. navis*, a ship.)
free-trade; system by which foreign goods are allowed to be brought into a country free from duty.
wanton; thoughtless and without control.

Victoria (cont.).—Stamp Duties, &c.

elementary education; teaching in what are called the *elements* of knowledge, viz. reading, writing, and arithmetic chiefly.
amended; altered for the better.
religious freedom; the right of people to worship in their own way without suffering for so doing.

Victoria (cont.).—Chinese Wars, &c.

opium; dried juice of the poppy. (*Gk. opion*, poppy-juice.)
Hong-Kong; S.E. of China.
Canton; near Hong-Kong.
Pekin; the capital of China.
Abyssinia; country in N.E. Africa, bordering on the Red Sea.

Victoria (cont.).—Boer War, &c.

Suez Canal; a canal cut through the Isthmus of Suez between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea.
Crimea; a district in the south of Russia, bordering on the Black Sea.

Charge of the Light Brigade; a dash on some guns made by a troop of English light-armed horsemen across a valley swept by the enemy's shot.

Victoria (cont.).—The Great Exhibition.

domestic; having to do with home. (*L. domus*, a home.)
Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; in central Germany.
transept; cross part of a cross-shaped building. (*L. trans*, across; *septum*, inclosure.)
girders; metal bands for fastening one part to another.
obstacles; things in the way.
celebration; keeping in mind by public acts, &c.
Jubilee; (the Hebrew word *jubilee* meant a time of joy every 50th year when all slaves were to be set free. *Hebr. yobel*, a trumpet sound. See *Levit. xxv. 11*, &c.)
cavalcade; line of horsemen. (*Ital. cavalcare*, to ride.)
permanent; lasting. (*L. permaneo*, to remain a long time.)

Victoria (cont.).—Affairs in India.

Burmah; between N. India and S.W. China.
Afghanistan; country on north-west of India.
rash meddling; the English interfered in 1837-1841 in a quarrel between Persia and Afghanistan.
massacres; murders of large numbers.
viceroy; one who rules instead of a king. (*F. vice*, instead of; *roi*, king.)
telegraph; (from *Gk. tele*, afar; *grapho*, I write.)

Victoria (cont.).—Extension of the Empire.

reverse; opposite. (*L. re*, back; *versus*, turned.)
geology; study of the formation of the earth. (*Gk. gē*, earth; *logos*, discourse.)
natural history; account of plants and animals, their habits, &c.
practical; that will work.
varied; different.
sway; rule, power.

SUMMARY.

BRITAIN AND ENGLAND.

[The passages bracketed do not summarize facts found in the body of the book, but are inserted to supplement the information.]

Two thousand years ago England was inhabited by a people called **Britons**, of Keltic origin, whose descendants are the present Welsh. The **Picts** dwelt in **Scotland**, a race akin to the Britons dwelt in Ireland, and a tribe of that race, called **Scots**, went across and settled among the Picts. The Britons were heathens; their priests formed a special class called **Druids**. They had some skill in metal-working, but lived chiefly by agriculture.

In B.C. 55 **Julius Cæsar** made a landing in Britain, but the country was really held by the **Romans** from 78 to 446 A.D. They taught the Britons how to build streets and towns, and to trade. At their departure Britain was invaded at different times by **Angles**, **Saxons**, and **Jutes**, from the lowlands in North Germany. The country was called **England** after the first-named tribe.

The new-comers believed that all men were equally free. They lived in villages, each of which governed its own affairs, and they chose their chief men for themselves. These were called **eorls**, the freemen themselves being called **ceorls**.

THE ENGLISH AND THE DANES.

The English were originally **heathens**. They loved danger in all its forms, but, although fierce, they were just and true. Beginning in the fifth century, for one hundred and fifty years these people were engaged in conquering Britain, and founded the kingdoms of **Kent**, **Northumbria**, **Mercia**, **Wessex**, **East Anglia**, **Essex**, **Sussex**, and **Middlesex**.

These different kingdoms were always at war for the next two hundred years; but at last a king of **Wessex**, **Egbert**, in 827, conquered the others and became **overlord** of all the country from the English Channel to the Firth of Forth. **Christianity** had been taught by some priests, who came from Rome in 597 A.D. at the invitation of **Bertha**, wife of **Ethelbert**, King of Kent.

Inroads had been made in early times by the **Danes**, from Denmark and Norway, who now invaded the country in large numbers. They were a seafaring folk, not given to tillage, and sailed about under their chiefs (called **Vikings**) in search of plunder. On one occasion they murdered King **Edmund** in Suffolk.

After many successes the Danes at last met their match in King **Alfred** (871-901 A.D.). He himself was at first defeated, but at last defeated **Guthrum**, the Danish leader, who became a Christian.

Danes were then allowed to settle in the north centre and on the north-east coast of the country, where the names of towns and villages ending in **-by** are tokens of their abodes.

After Alfred's death other invasions took place, till at last England had a Danish king, **Canute**, in 1017. Canute's two sons also became kings, but in 1042 the English line was restored.

BEDE, ALFRED, DUNSTAN.

These were three of the greatest men in England before the year 1042. **Bede** was a good, pious monk of **Jarrow**, and a great teacher of the many students who came to him from far and wide. He was a learned man, and is called the "**Father of English Learning**." His greatest work was the *Church History of the English Nation*, giving an account of the years from 597 till 731.

Alfred the Great received his name from the great wisdom and justice with which he ruled the people both in peace and war. He made the people respect **law, government, and religion**, and encouraged **learning**; and after a long war he made peace with the Danes. His own writings have entitled him to be called the "**Father of English Books in Prose**."

Dunstan was a clever churchman and statesman, born in 925. He was skilled in many arts. Under **Edred**, from 946 to 955, Dunstan became chief minister, and under **Edgar**, 958-975, he was **Archbishop of Canterbury** for sixteen years. While Dunstan was in power trade increased, and London became a thriving town.

THE NORMANS.

The **Normans** were Danes who had settled in the north of France about the tenth century. They became **Christians**, and gave up their own tongue to adopt the French language and teaching. They soon became the most polished and skilful people in Europe.

The Normans could be bold in battle, yet gentle before ladies. They were fond of music and poetry, and loved to show their wealth in every way. **Edward the Confessor** was brought up among these people, and, therefore, when he became King of England in 1042, we find the **Norman-French language, Norman favourites, and Norman habits** brought to England, and in these days were built the first of the strong stone castles, which may now be found in some parts of England. The Norman power grew in spite of the efforts of **Earl Godwin** and other English nobles to keep it down. Godwin died in 1053, and his son **Harold** became chief noble in England, and really ruled the country.

WILLIAM, DUKE OF NORMANDY.

King Edward died in 1066, and then a question arose as to who should be king. The **Witan** chose **Harold**, but **William, Duke of Normandy**, laid claim to the throne, which he said Edward had promised him, and went to war to support his claim. He was

strong in body, fierce in look, and an able statesman as well as a fine soldier. His strength, appearance, voice, and bravery fitted him to be a ruler. He was sometimes guilty of great acts of cruelty and revenge, but never unprovoked.

He defeated Harold at the battle of **Hastings** (1066). The conquest of England took some years, during which William ruled with much severity. He laid waste **Yorkshire** in punishment of a rebellion, and destroyed whole villages in **Hampshire** in making the **New Forest**. He met his death whilst warring against the King of France in 1087, in revenge for a coarse joke made about him while he was lying ill.

WILLIAM I.

For years past the land of England had been gradually passing from the freemen to the nobles and the king. The freemen had been forced by the Danish inroads to seek help from the **thanes**. In return for their help, the thanes took the lands of the freemen, allowing them to remain in possession on condition of their serving them in war. **William I.** claimed all the land for himself, but divided a great part of it amongst his followers in return for their services in war. These men divided their share amongst others, on the same conditions, and these again to others, till the land had been divided into small portions. This was the "**Feudal System.**" The result was that the old English nobility sank into a middle class, and the former freemen became **serfs**. The **Witan** became the **King's Council**, and the higher classes spoke **French**, while the displaced English kept to their own tongue.

From **Normandy** at this time came artists, traders, and many learned men, and as there was peace in England for some years now the country became very prosperous, and the townspeople rich. The towns bought **charters** from the king which gave them the right of self-government. So, in time, the people regained the liberty which they had lost.

[All through William's reign **Domesday Book** was being compiled. It was a complete survey of the land of England, stating its value, who were its owners, &c.]

WILLIAM II.—HENRY I.—STEPHEN.

After the death of William I., in 1087, his son **William II. (Rufus)** became king. He robbed his richer subjects, used **Ranulf** his minister as a means of extortion, and by his tyranny drove away **Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury**, from England. He obtained a hold on Normandy by lending its duke, his brother **Robert**, money for his **Crusade**. He was killed (1100) by an arrow in the **New Forest**.

His brother **Henry** at once caused himself to be crowned, though the barons were more in favour of **Robert**, the elder brother. Henry won these to his aid by the "**Charter of Liberties.**" He pro-

mised the barons that he would rule according to law, and he pleased the English people by marrying **Matilda**, daughter of the King of Scotland. This lady was a descendant of the old English kings. He ruled with a strong hand, took Normandy from his brother Robert, and kept him a prisoner for nearly thirty years.

At his death, in 1135, he left the throne to his daughter **Matilda**, as his only son, **William**, had been accidentally drowned. A civil war now arose. Some barons supported **Matilda**, others took the side of **Stephen**, Henry's nephew. **David**, King of Scotland, who fought for **Matilda**, was defeated at the battle of the **Standard** (1138). At last, after seventeen years of war, an agreement was made by which **Stephen** was to be king until he died, when **Matilda's** son **Henry** was to succeed him. **Stephen** died in 1154. During his reign the country was in great misery, owing to bad harvests, continual bloodshed, and the oppression of the barons, which made no man's property safe.

HENRY II.

Henry II. (1154–1189) was the first of the **Plantagenet** kings. He was son of **Matilda** and her second husband, **Geoffrey**, Count of **Anjou**, and by his marriage with **Eleanor of Provence** became ruler of a great part of France. He was a hard-working and able king, making all comers feel his power. He ruled all alike, Normans and English, and this had a good result, for it helped the two peoples to become one. The two peoples were already closely related by marriage and by trade. **Henry** had two great aims: (1) to curb the power of the barons, grown oppressive in the previous reign, (2) to bring the clergy under the common law of the land. He restored law and order, and was the founder of "**assizes**," by dividing his country into six parts, and sending round judges to try all cases. In 1155 **Thomas Becket**, who was a soldier as well as a priest, was made chancellor, and thus became next in power to the king. He was a very wealthy and able man.

HENRY II. AND THOMAS BECKET.

In 1162 **Becket** was made **Archbishop of Canterbury**. At once he began to quarrel with the king. He held that if any of the clergy committed any crime they should be tried by the church courts; whilst **Henry** insisted that they should be tried like other men in the king's courts.

In 1164, at **Clarendon**, things were settled according to **Henry's** wish, and other powers were given him over the clergy. **Becket** at first gave way, but withdrew his oath, and was fined by the king. He fled to France, and after six years returned by **Henry's** permission. But at once he again opposed the king. **Henry** was enraged, and in his anger spoke such words as caused four knights to hasten from France and murder **Becket** in **Canterbury Cathedral**. **Becket**, after death, was considered by the people a saint and a martyr, and pilgrimages were made to his tomb.

In Henry's reign Ireland began to pass into the hands of the English. [English noblemen, such as **Strongbow**, Earl of Pembroke, first went to assist one of the Irish kings in a war against another. Then Henry himself crossed over, and Irish chiefs acknowledged him as **overlord**.]

The latter part of Henry's reign was troubled by a rebellion of his sons.]

RICHARD I.

Henry died in 1189, and his brave son **Richard**, "the Lion-hearted," became king. He spent little time in England, which country he neglected, but won fame and glory in the "**Crusades**." His chief enemy was the brave **Saladin**.

Richard married the beautiful **Berengaria** in Cyprus, and took her to his wars.

He was shipwrecked on his way home, and fell into the hands of his deadly foe, the **Duke of Austria**.

RICHARD I. AND JOHN.

The Duke of Austria sold Richard to the **Emperor of Germany**, by whom he was kept in prison until **ransomed** for £100,000; then he returned home.

He found his traitor brother, **John**, plotting with **Philip of France** to deprive him of his kingdom. With his usual forgiving spirit he inflicted but a slight punishment on John.

Richard was killed by an arrow whilst trying to take a castle in France in 1199. With his last words he forgave the man who had shot the fatal arrow, and ordered him to be set free. This command was never carried out.

Richard's brother John became king in 1199. He was a wicked man and a bad king, and was hated by all his people.

[John was utterly without respect for his subjects and their rights. He quarrelled with the pope about the appointment of an archbishop of Canterbury. **Stephen Langton**, who was appointed, joined with the best of the barons in compelling John, in 1215, to sign the "**Great Charter**."]]

THE GREAT CHARTER.—HENRY III.

The **Great Charter** was the great protection of the people against the evil government of kings. It was often confirmed by succeeding kings. One of the chief points in it was that no king could get money from the people unless with the consent of his council. Another was that every man should have **justice** done him, whether he were rich or poor.

In John's reign England lost most of the French possessions. From this loss, no doubt, great good has come. The Norman nobles in England came to regard England as their own country. They began also to learn the **English** language, though many years passed before the use of French generally ceased.

[John, after signing the charter, again began to act unjustly. The barons raised an army against him, and asked help from France. The French army had just arrived when John died (1216).]

Henry III., a boy of nine, succeeded his father John in 1216. For some years the country was well governed by wise men; but when Henry began to rule he proved a weak king, and was advised by his French wife to give nearly all power to Frenchmen. The barons rose against him as they had risen against his father, and by the **Provisions of Oxford** caused the foreigners to be dismissed, and a council to be frequently called. Under **Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester**, they caused a council of men chosen by the people themselves to be called together. This was the beginning of what was known afterwards as the **House of Commons**.

[De Montfort defeated the king at the battle of **Lewes**. But owing to jealousy among the other barons, the king grew strong again, and at last Montfort was defeated and slain at the battle of **Evesham**.]

LEARNING UNDER HENRY III.

In this reign religion and learning began to grow greatly. The Universities of **Oxford** and **Cambridge** had their beginning, and strength of mind began to be respected as well as strength of body. Men went to the **East** and to **Spain** to learn what they did not know, and hundreds of young men flocked to Oxford from all parts of England, and also from the Continent, to improve their minds.

Roger Bacon, a friar of the order of **St. Francis**, lived in this reign. He spent much money and time in study. He studied more particularly the branch of science called "**optics**," and was a good **Latin**, **Greek**, and **Hebrew** scholar. He laid the foundation of many discoveries such as the **telescope**. **Henry of Bracton**, another famous man, also lived during this reign. In his great work on the **Laws and Customs of England** we see the spirit of the times, for he tells us that a king should not be allowed to reign unless he governs his people according to law.

THE FRIARS.

At this time several good men thought that the Church was getting too rich, and useless. So **Dominic** in Spain, and **Francis of Assisi** in Italy, founded brotherhoods of men who promised always to remain poor, and to spend their lives in working for the good of their fellows. These men, called **Friars**, came into England in the thirteenth century.

The Franciscans worked greatly in England, and having given up all their wealth to the poor, they depended on the kindness of the rich for help. Because of their grey robe they were called **Grey Friars**. They were the doctors and nurses of the sick, and the teachers of the ignorant. One of the most famous of them was **Adam Marsh** of Oxford.

The influence of the Friars was at first very great. They were on the side of **freedom**, and against all that was evil in Church or State.

EDWARD I.—HIS CHARACTER.

Edward I., surnamed **Longshanks**, reigned from 1272 to 1307. He was a great soldier and a skilful general, and his high character made him much beloved by his people. Before he became king he defeated **Simon de Montfort** at **Evesham**. Soon after he came to the throne he conquered **Wales**.

[The Welsh were descendants of the **Britons**, and had a prince of their own. Their hatred of the English was cherished by their **bards**, and they used continually to attack the Englishmen near the borders. Edward defeated and slew their prince, but gained their favour by his wise government.]

In name, manners, temper, and heart Edward was a thorough Englishman, having not only the virtues but also the faults of our race. He was a good husband, and mourned for his wife long after her death. He had her body brought for burial from **Lincolnshire** to **London**, and at all the halting-places caused a cross to be set up as a memorial.

EDWARD I. AS KING.

These are some of the wise things which this great king did. First he made courts of law. He then made laws to curb the power of the Church, whilst his **Statute of Merchants** protected trade.

He provided for public order and safety by national police and national defence. To try evil-doers he appointed **justices of the peace** from among the country gentlemen, and made laws to make the buying and selling of land easy.

In this reign **parliament** began to take more nearly its present form. The first real parliament met in 1295, and from that date the **knights of the shire**, or county members, and the borough members, came regularly to all meetings of parliament.

[Parliament was soon divided into two houses, the nobles and great churchmen sitting in the **House of Lords**, the members elected by the people sitting in the **House of Commons**.]

Though Edward conquered Wales, he did not allow Welsh members of parliament. It was not till Henry VIII.'s reign that the Welsh were represented.

Edward also attempted to conquer **Scotland**. For a time he met with some success, but **Wallace** and **Bruce** successfully resisted him. Wallace won the **Battle of Stirling** (1297), but was defeated next year by Edward at **Falkirk**. Soon afterwards he was put to death, but **Bruce** defeated the English at **Bannockburn** (1314) in Edward II.'s reign. From this time Scotland was independent until 1707, when the two countries became one by the **Act of Union**.

EDWARD I. AS KING (*continued*).

In this reign also trade grew with **Flanders**, **France**, **Italy**, and **Spain**, and beautiful **cathedrals** sprang up in different places. The barons, who now were among the strongest supporters of English freedom, made King Edward confirm the **Great Charter** three times. When Edward tried to raise money for his wars in Scotland and Flanders without first asking parliament, the barons resisted. The money was granted by parliament, but Edward had to promise always to ask its consent in future.

EDWARD II.—EDWARD III.

Edward II. succeeded his father in 1307. He was wicked in his way of life, and was ruled by favourites, the first of whom was **Piers Gaveston**. When this man had been beheaded by the barons, the king chose the two **Despensers** as his advisers. Trouble came from all sides. The Scots won the great **Battle of Bannockburn** in 1314; famine was in the land; the queen, **Isabella**, turned against her husband. At last he was deposed, and at length murdered in **Berkeley Castle** in **Gloucestershire**.

His son **Edward III.** succeeded him in 1327, and reigned fifty years. He was one of our greatest kings, being skilful in war and wise in directing affairs. He imprisoned his mother, and hanged her favourite, **Roger Mortimer**. In 1362 he ordered **English** to be used instead of **French** in all courts of law, and soon afterwards English was used in schools.

[Edward III. attempted to complete the conquest of Scotland. The Scots were defeated at **Halidon Hill**, and **Berwick**, the border town, became English property.]

EDWARD III. AS KING.

In this reign began the **Hundred Years' War** with France. Edward claimed the French throne, his mother having been a daughter of a French king; and the English, winning the battles of **Sluys** in 1340, **Crecy** in 1346, **Poitiers** in 1356, became possessed of a great part of France. Yet before the end of the reign the French under **Bertrand du Guesclin** had reconquered all except a few towns.

In 1348 and 1349 the plague called the **Black Death** killed hundreds of thousands in England.

In 1351 the **Statute of Treasons** was passed, which limited the crime of treason to active war against the king or plotting against his life. Towards the end of his reign a wicked woman named **Alice Perrers** ruled the king, but the **House of Commons** for the first time stood up against the **Lords** and **Crown** alike. They complained of the way in which the land was ruled. The result was that the king's evil advisers were driven away. Then the House asked that Parliament might meet every year, and secured other improvements.

RICHARD II.

Richard II. became king in 1377. He soon had to deal with the **Revolt of the Peasants**. The misery and ignorance of the poor, and the corruption of the rich and the clergy, are shown in the great poem commonly known as *Piers the Plowman*, written by **William Langland**. The people had begun to rise above serfdom, but the **Black Death** and the **Statute of Labourers** lowered the rate of wages, and so brought the people down again. The country people from Kent to Devon marched on London, burning and killing. Richard met them boldly, and having persuaded them to return home, fell upon them with an army and put thousands to death.

The king soon forsook the good rule of his early reign, and **Henry of Lancaster** (son of **John of Gaunt**), a man who had been badly used by Richard, deprived him of the crown. Richard shortly afterwards died in **Pomfret Castle**, Yorkshire.

[**English Literature** now began to rise into greatness. Langland's great work has been mentioned; other writers wrote in the same spirit. **Wyclif** wrote a large number of books, some in Latin, some in English, in all of which he tried to get men to act up to the religion they professed. He also translated parts of the *Bible* into English. But the greatest writer was **Geoffrey Chaucer**, who wrote many poems in the intervals of his state business. His poems give us a true picture of the ordinary life of the people of his day.]

JOHN WYCLIF.—HENRY IV.

Wyclif, the Morning Star of the **Reformation**, was master of **Balliol College**, Oxford. He set up the gospel as a rule of life instead of the word of the pope, and taught this to the people in homely language. He is called the "**Father of English Prose**." His great work was the translation of the Bible into English. His followers were called **Lollards**, and were much persecuted.

Henry of Lancaster, who had deposed Richard, became king in 1399. His reign was troubled by rebellions. [The Welsh rose, under **Owen Glendower**, but were often defeated by the Prince of Wales. But the Earl of March was taken prisoner by the Welsh, and Henry refused to allow the **Earl of Northumberland**, a relative of March's, to ransom him. He also refused to allow Northumberland to release for ransom the prisoners he had taken at the battle of **Homildon Hill**, in repelling an inroad of the **Earl of Douglas**.] This caused the **Percies'** rebellion, defeated at the **Battle of Shrewsbury** (1403).

The **Statute of Heretics**, which ordered heretics to be burned, was passed against the **Lollards** in 1401, and **William Sautre** was the first victim.

HENRY V.

Henry V. became king in 1413, and first had to deal with the **Lollards**, who, under the king's friend, **Lord Cobham**, gave much trouble. Cobham at last was beheaded.

Henry was a skilful and brave soldier, and renewed the war with France. In 1415 he won the great battle of **Agincourt**, and the French were so divided among themselves that Henry was really master of the country. By the **Treaty of Troyes** he married **Katherine**, the French king's daughter, and was to succeed to the throne of France upon the death of her father. But in less than two years (1422) Henry himself died, leaving his brother the **Duke of Bedford** ruler in France, while another brother, the **Duke of Gloucester**, had charge of affairs in England.

HENRY VI.

Henry VI. was an infant when his father, **Henry V.**, died. His was a wretched reign. The House of Commons lost its power for various reasons, and the English lost the whole of what **Henry V.** had won in France. This was chiefly owing to **Jeanne Darc**, the **Maid of Orleans**. She defeated the English at **Orleans**, but was afterwards betrayed by the French, and burnt to death as a witch by the English. By 1453 all France was lost to the English but **Calais**.

Henry was not strong-minded enough to be king, and was a great contrast to his wife, **Margaret of Anjou**, who was one of the most remarkable women in all history. Henry was a friend of religion and education, and founded **Eton College**.

[During the years of Henry's minority the money of the country was wasted. Great discontent arose, and a rebellion of Kentish men was led by **Jack Cade**. It was quelled with some difficulty.]

HENRY VI.—EDWARD IV.

The **Wars of the Roses** now began. The struggle was between the houses of **York** and **Lancaster**, both of which were descended from **Edward III.**, but it was disputed which house had the better claim to the throne. The **Duke of York** was defeated and slain at **Wakefield** (1460), but his son **Edward** deposed **Henry** and became king. The **Yorkists** won the battle of **Towton**. **Margaret** and **Henry**, and their son **Edward**, fled to Scotland. In 1471 **Edward of York** won the great battles of **Barnet** and **Tewkesbury**.

The great **Earl of Warwick**, the **Kingmaker**, who had formerly been on the **Yorkist** side, led the **Lancastrians** at **Barnet**, in which battle he was killed. At **Tewkesbury** **Margaret's** son **Edward** was killed in or after the battle, and **Henry VI.** was soon after murdered in the Tower. **Edward**, **Duke of York**, became king as **Edward IV.** As most of the great nobles had fallen, there were none to oppose the king, and the "**New Monarchy**"—in which the king could do almost as he wished—began now, and lasted for nearly one hundred years. Parliament had little voice in the government of the country. The one great event in the reign of **Edward IV.** was the introduction of printing by **William Caxton** in 1477.

[**Edward** made an invasion of France, but withdrew at the **Peace of Pecquigny**, by which he received money from the French king.]

1455. First Battle of St. Albans. Y.	1461. Battle of Towton. Y.
1460. Battle of Northampton. Y.	1464. Battle of Hexham. Y.
Battle of Wakefield. L.	1471. Battle of Barnet. Y.
1461. Battle of Mortimer's Cross. Y.	Battle of Tewkesbury. Y.
Second Battle of St. Albans. L.	

EDWARD V.—RICHARD III.

Edward IV. died in 1483. His heir, **Prince Edward**, was thirteen years old. This lad and his younger brother **Richard** were put to death by their uncle (also named **Richard**) in the **Tower**. By telling a false story, this wicked man caused himself to be made king, and it was given out that the young princes had died. Few persons have doubted that they were murdered.

The supporters of the **House of Lancaster** and many **Yorkists** determined to avenge their death. **Henry of Richmond** was now the leader of the Lancastrian party. He raised an army in France, and after one unsuccessful attempt, landed at **Milford Haven**, and defeated King **Richard** at the **Battle of Bosworth** (1485), after the latter had reigned two years.

The **Wars of the Roses** thus ended with the triumph of the **Red Rose** in 1485.

HENRY VII.

Henry VII., the first of the **Tudors**, had two chief aims: to keep peace at home and abroad, and to amass treasure; and he succeeded well in both. He strengthened his hold on the crown by marrying **Elizabeth**, daughter of **Edward IV.**, and ruled as much as possible without Parliament.

The **Court of the Star Chamber**, afterwards so infamous, was now revived. It was chiefly employed in checking the wealth of the upper classes. Henry's tools for extorting money were two ministers named **Empson** and **Dudley**.

This reign may be said to begin modern history, and great events occurred. In 1492 **Columbus** discovered **America**. Men sailed round the **Cape of Good Hope** to **India**, and in 1497 **John Cabot** reached **Labrador**. The great astronomer **Copernicus** lived, the "**new learning**" began to be taught at **Oxford**, and **Erasmus**, the great Greek scholar, taught at **Oxford** and **Cambridge**.

[There were two conspiracies in this reign, the first by **Lambert Simnel**, who pretended to be the Earl of **Warwick** who had been imprisoned in the **Tower**; the other by **Perkin Warbeck**, who personated the Prince **Richard** who had been murdered. Both were easily quelled.]

The **New Learning**, called on the Continent the **Renaissance**, or new birth, was greatly due to the taking of **Constantinople** by the **Turks**. The expelled Greeks brought their literature westward.]

HENRY VIII.

In 1502 **Henry VII.**'s eldest daughter, **Margaret**, married **James IV.** of **Scotland**—a marriage of great importance. **Henry**

VIII. succeeded Henry VII. in 1509, and married his brother Arthur's widow, **Katherine of Aragon**. His faults were self-love and self-will. He was at first loved by the people, but feared by his nobles. He was the founder of our navy, and formed the body of men called the **Brethren of the Trinity House**.

[**Wolsey** was a great figure in this reign. Of low birth, he became a favourite with the king, who made him chancellor and Archbishop of York. The pope made him a cardinal. After taking a great and successful part in ruling the country, he fell into disgrace because he mismanaged the settling of the king's divorce; and was on his way to prison when he died.]

Henry wished to do great deeds in a war with France, but after one victory, the **Battle of Spurs**, nothing more was done of importance. The English gained a great victory over the Scotch at **Flodden Field** (1513), where the Scotch king, **James IV.**, was slain. The famous **Mary, Queen of Scots**, was the daughter of **James V.**, the son of **James IV.**

HENRY VIII. (*continued*).

Henry VIII. wished to divorce his wife **Katherine of Aragon**, but could not obtain the consent of the pope. A quarrel arose, which caused England to throw off the power of the **Church of Rome**. Henry not only got rid of **Katherine**, but married, one after the other, **Anne Boleyn** (beheaded), **Jane Seymour** (died), **Anna of Cleves** (divorced), **Katherine Howard** (beheaded), and **Katherine Parr**.

Three great names in this reign are **Cranmer**, **Thomas Cromwell**, and **Sir Thomas More**.

[The **Reformation** was begun in Germany by **Martin Luther**, who in 1517 issued a declaration against indulgences. His teaching spread to England, where **Wyclif** years before had taught much in the same way. Henry VIII. wrote a book against Luther, for which the pope called him **Defender of the Faith**.

Henry did not disagree with Romish teaching, but wished to separate the Church in England entirely from the rule of the pope. **Cranmer**, who helped him in the divorce matter, helped him also in this, and an **Act of Supremacy** was passed, declaring Henry the only head of the Church in England. **Thomas Cromwell** aided Henry to suppress the monasteries.

In 1536 there was a rebellion in the north, called the **Pilgrimage of Grace**.]

EDWARD VI.—MARY I.—ELIZABETH.

When Henry died, in 1547, his sickly son, **Edward VI.**, succeeded him at the age of sixteen, and died in 1553. **Cranmer** had great power over the young king, and pushed forward the **Reformation** in England.

Mary I. ruled next, from 1553 till 1558. The rebellion in favour

of **Lady Jane Grey** failed. Mary's reign is noted for the number of **martyrs** who were burnt to death for the **Protestant** religion. Amongst others were **Cranmer**, and **Bishops Hooper, Ridley, and Latimer**.

Mary died in 1558 after the taking of **Calais** by the French, and her sister **Elizabeth** became queen. Elizabeth was a wise and clever woman, and chose wise ministers to advise her. The chief were **Lord Burleigh, Sir Francis Walsingham, and Robert Cecil** (Earl of Salisbury). Her great aim was to keep England out of foreign quarrels, and especially out of the power of the pope. **Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury**, greatly assisted her in Church matters. The **Act of Uniformity** was passed, which forced all ministers to use the church service. Catholics could not obey this law, and some were put to death for disobedience; but these were mostly men who were traitors as well. The **Court of High Commission** was formed to see that the law was obeyed.

In this reign people who wished for simpler worship and purer manners were called **Puritans**. Puritans in after reigns did a great deal for England.

ELIZABETH (*continued*).

Elizabeth, during her reign, was the champion of the Protestants of Europe against the powerful **Philip II. of Spain**, formerly husband of **Mary I.**, who fought on behalf of the Roman Catholics. Philip was trying to compel his subjects in the **Netherlands** to become Roman Catholics. They had some help from England. Philip was the master of a very rich and powerful empire.

Philip II. had many friends in England, who stirred up some of the people against their queen.

Many plots were made to make **Mary Queen of Scots** also Queen of England. She was a bad woman who was reasonably thought to have helped to murder her husband. She was driven from Scotland, and kept as a state prisoner in England. Many plots were made by Roman Catholics to make Mary queen instead of Elizabeth. Mary was herself found to be concerned in a plot formed by **Anthony Babington**, and was beheaded after a trial.

ELIZABETH (*continued*).

Philip II. of Spain made up his mind to conquer England, partly to make it again a Roman Catholic country, partly in revenge for the mischief caused by English seamen. **Sir Francis Drake** and **Sir John Hawkins** were great offenders. They used to waylay Spanish treasure-ships on their way home from America, destroy them and capture their goods. Sometimes they attacked Spanish ports. At last in 1588 Philip sent the **Armada** to England. It was defeated, partly by the skill of the English seamen, partly by bad weather.

After many insurrections **Ireland** was almost completely conquered in **Elizabeth's** reign.

During this reign trade much increased, and England became supreme on the seas. Education was much improved. Many great writers lived and worked. **Raleigh**, who afterwards began a *History of the World*, wrote some poems; **Sir Philip Sidney** wrote *Arcadia*, one of the first of English tales; **Edmund Spenser** wrote the *Faerie Queen*, and other fine poems; **Bacon** began his *Essays*; and **Shakespeare** wrote several of his splendid plays.

[In 1585 Elizabeth sent an army to help the Dutch against Philip of Spain. At the battle of **Zutphen** the famous Sir Philip Sidney was fatally wounded.]

JAMES I.

James VI. of Scotland was the next heir to the throne when Elizabeth died in 1603, and became king as **James I.** He was a well-meaning but foolish king, and was not at all beloved by the English people, whom he did not understand. He thought a great deal of his own ability. **Sir Walter Raleigh** was accused of plotting against the king, imprisoned for thirteen years, and then beheaded in 1618.

The famous **Gunpowder Plot**, by which it was sought to blow up the king and the parliament, failed in 1605. It was formed by the Catholics, against whom stern laws were made. James's belief in the "divine right" of kings to do as they pleased brought trouble not only to himself but to his children also. He thought he could do without parliament.

JAMES I. (*continued*).

The king's first adviser, **Cecil**, died in 1612, and then James was ruled in turn by two worthless men, **Robert Carr**, Earl of **Somerset**, and **George Villiers**, Duke of **Buckingham**.

Sir Edwin Sandys, **Sir Edward Coke**, **John Pym**, and others were sent to prison, because they opposed the king and his favourites.

In 1611 was published the translation of the Bible which we now use. In 1613 the king's daughter **Elizabeth** married the **Elector Frederick**. In the year 1620 the **Pilgrim Fathers**, Puritans who could not live in England because of persecution, emigrated to America in the "**Mayflower**."

CHARLES I.

Charles I., son of James I., became king in 1625. He had been taught by his father that he held his throne by "divine right," and he soon made enemies of his people by setting himself above the laws.

In 1625 he married the French princess **Henrietta Maria**, who had great influence over him. Charles was also much under the influence of the **Duke of Buckingham**. Money got from parliament for the purpose of helping Protestants abroad was wasted in expeditions which were bound to fail.

In 1628 the **Petition of Right** was presented to the king, demanding that no taxes should be levied without consent of parliament. It plainly spoke the mind of the people. Charles, after much hesitation, agreed to it, but broke his promise at once.

In the same year **Sir Thomas Wentworth**, afterwards Earl of **Strafford**, and **William Laud**, Bishop of London, became the advisers of the king. They were both hated by the people because of the oppression which they practised.

CHARLES I. (*continued*).

In 1629 Charles insulted and dissolved his parliament. Some members were imprisoned in the Tower, where one, **Sir John Eliot**, died. Charles did not call another parliament for eleven years, but with the help of **Strafford** trampled all freedom under foot and ruled alone. His idea was to keep the people down by means of an army.

The courts of **Star Chamber** and **High Commission** were the tools with which Charles worked. The first had power in civil matters, the second in matters of religion.

In 1637 **John Hampden** justly refused to pay the tax called "ship money;" but the judges, who were chosen by the king, and might be also dismissed by him, decided against Hampden. Now judges are independent of the sovereign.

CHARLES I. (*continued*).

In 1637 Charles and Laud tried to force the religion of England upon Scotland. The Scotch, who were then, as now, **Presbyterians**, would not accept it. They signed the **Covenant**, by which they bound themselves not to allow religious changes in Scotland. War then broke out. This caused the king in 1640 to call a parliament, that he might have money. It was however soon dissolved, for the members would grant no money until their wishes were respected. Riots then occurred in London.

The Scotch gained victories, and Charles called another parliament. This was the famous **Long Parliament**. Almost the first thing it did was to charge **Strafford** with treason. **Strafford** was executed in 1641, and in the same year twelve bishops, including Laud, were imprisoned in the Tower.

CHARLES I. (*continued*).

In January, 1642, Charles hastened his fate by trying to arrest five members of the House of Commons. They fled and took refuge in the city of London, which was against the king.

The House of Commons wished Charles to give up the command of the army. He refused, and civil war began. On Charles's side were most of the lords and gentry. On the parliament's side were the townspeople and farmers, with a few lords.

Prince Rupert was Charles's chief officer, and **Lord Essex**

was at first the leader for the parliament. But soon **Oliver Cromwell** gained the chief place, and his **Ironsides** did great deeds for their side. At first the king gained some slight successes, but afterwards he was always defeated.

In July, 1644, **Cromwell** gained the battle of **Marston Moor**, near York, and Charles also lost the great battle of **Naseby** in 1645, which decided the war. Charles's private papers fell into the hands of the parliament, and proved the falseness of his dealings. In the same year **Archbishop Laud** was beheaded.

[The **Battle of Naseby** was the first battle fought by the parliamentary army called the **New Model**. By the **Self-denying Ordinance** all members of parliament who had commands in the army gave them up, with the exception of Cromwell.]

Principal Battles of the Civil War.

1642. Battle of Edgehill. R.	1644. Marston Moor. P.
1643. Battle of Wakefield. P.	Newbury II (indecisive).
Chalgrove Field. R.	1645. Naseby. P.
Newbury I. P.	

CHARLES I.—CROMWELL.

[After the battle of Naseby Charles gave himself up to the Scots, who after a time sold him to the parliament. He was imprisoned at **Hampton Court** and in the **Isle of Wight**, and was then brought to trial before a large committee of the Houses. He was condemned, and executed on January 30, 1649.]

England now became a **Commonwealth**, of which **Cromwell** became in 1653 the head as **Lord Protector**.

Cromwell became at once lieutenant-general of the army. He overran Ireland, and defeated the Scotch under **Leslie** at **Dunbar**, September 3, 1650, and also the young king Charles the Second and the Scotch army at **Worcester**, September 3, 1651. Charles after many adventures escaped from England to France.

The English admirals **Blake** and **Monk** gained victories for us against the **Dutch** and **Spaniards**, and the name of England was everywhere feared. Cromwell died, worn out with toil, care, and disease, September 3, 1658.

[The **Dutch war** was caused by the passing of the **Navigation Act**, which forbade goods to be brought to England except in English vessels. During Cromwell's protectorate **Jamaica** in the West Indies and **Dunkirk** in Belgium were captured.]

CHARLES II.

Richard Cromwell, Oliver's son, tried to rule but failed, and **General Monk**, who had won battles for the parliament in Scotland, and was popular with the army, invited **King Charles II.** to come from **Holland**. Charles was gladly welcomed by the people, but soon proved himself to be a pleasant but vicious man, and a bad king. He was in religion a **Catholic** at heart, but he restored episcopacy in Scotland, and set to work to destroy the Puritan party.

[Several laws, known as the *Clarendon Code*, because the Earl of Clarendon was believed to be the author of them, were passed against nonconformists. The most important were the *Corporation Act* and the *Act of Uniformity*.]

Laws were also passed specially against the Roman Catholics. The most important was the *Test Act*, which shut out Catholics from public offices.

Charles sold **Dunkirk** to the French, and for many years received money from Louis XIV., King of France, to help him in his design of becoming master of Europe.

[The **Covenanters** were cruelly used in Scotland, and at last rose in arms. They defeated **Graham of Claverhouse** at **Drumclog**, but were defeated by the **Duke of Monmouth** at **Bothwell Bridge**.]

CHARLES II. (*continued*).

A good law—the **Habeas Corpus Act**—was passed in Charles II.'s reign under the advice of the first **Earl of Shaftesbury**. This law provides that no one may be kept in prison without being brought to trial.

In 1665 took place the **Great Plague** of London, which killed thousands; and in the following year the **Great Fire** of London destroyed nearly the whole of the city of London. We have an account of it in the diary of **John Evelyn**. The effect of the Fire was to burn out the remnants of the Plague. On the ruins of the city new and better houses were built, and the old Gothic cathedral of St. Paul's was replaced by the present splendid structure.

CHARLES II. (*continued*).

[A second **Dutch war** broke out in 1665. After a long indecisive battle, which lasted four days, the English under **Prince Rupert** and **Monk** (now **Duke of Albemarle**) defeated the Dutch under **De Ruyter**. But in 1667 the Dutch appeared at the mouth of the Thames, burned **Sheerness**, and sailed up the Thames as far as **Tilbury** before they were repulsed.]

In 1672 Charles claimed the right to suspend the laws at his pleasure. He issued the *Declaration of Indulgence*, not, as he said, to help the **Puritans**, but that he might give back to his brother **James, Duke of York**, the power which had been taken from him because of his Catholic religion. This so enraged the people that Charles withdrew the Declaration next year.

[A worthless clergyman named **Oates** pretended in 1678 that he had discovered a Popish plot, and thereby caused much hatred against the Catholics. The House of Commons tried to pass a bill to keep **James, Duke of York**, from the throne.]

Two plots were made against the king towards the end of the reign. The first was made by **Monmouth**, **Lord Russell**, and **Algernon Sidney**, and the other was the famous **Rye House**

Plot. The first was to make Monmouth king, the second to murder Charles. The two plots were confused. Russell and Sidney were beheaded, and Monmouth, a son of the king, was banished.

[In this reign several important books were written; among them the following: Milton's *Paradise Lost*, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, Newton's work on *Light*, Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion*, and Dryden's *Annus Mirabilis* and *Absalom and Achitophel*.

In this reign also **Party Government** began.]

JAMES II.

The king's brother, **James, Duke of York**, became king as **James II.**, 1685. He was not so clever as Charles, and by his bad rule lost his throne in less than four years. He promised to maintain the English Church, but soon began to try and bring back Roman Catholicism. The parliament soon showed they intended to have more of their own way, and under this king the struggle for freedom which had been going on since the reign of John (nearly five hundred years) gained its greatest success.

In 1685 the foolish **Rebellion** of Monmouth was put down at the battle of **Sedgemoor** in **Somerset**. Monmouth was persuaded by his friends that if he declared himself king the country would rise in his favour. He was taken and executed, and **Judge Jeffreys** in the "**Bloody Assize**" cruelly punished his supporters.

JAMES II. (*continued*).

James was a strong **Catholic**, and had made up his mind that if he could he would restore his religion to the people.

To do this he kept a Catholic army, again set up the **Court of High Commission**, punished the Protestant clergy who attacked the Church of Rome, and tried to set Roman Catholics over some of the colleges at Oxford and Cambridge. In this last he failed. In 1688 James published his "**Declaration of Indulgence**," which he ordered the clergy to read. Nearly all refused.

JAMES II. (*continued*).

Seven Bishops refused to allow the Declaration of Indulgence to be read by their clergy, and sent a petition to the king. They were brought to trial for publishing a libel, but were acquitted, to the great delight of the people.

On the same day the soldiers of James's army showed him by their cheers at the acquittal that they too were against him.

JAMES II. (*continued*).

The nation had put up with James so long, because they expected that his eldest daughter, **Mary**, who had married a Protestant, **William, Prince of Orange**, would follow him on the throne.

But in 1688 a son was born to the king, and the nation's hope was gone.

Some of the chief nobles invited William to come with an army and defend the people and the Protestant religion. James was deserted by some of his officers, and by his daughter **Anne**. He threw the Great Seal into the Thames and sailed for **France**, where he lived in a palace given him by Louis XIV.

After some weeks' delay William was offered the crown by the **Convention Parliament**. He with his wife Mary signed the "**Declaration of Rights**;" and they were then crowned in **Westminster Abbey**.

The **Declaration of Rights**, with additions, became the famous **Bill of Rights**, which is the third great charter of English freedom, coming after the **Great Charter of John** and the **Petition of Right of Charles I.** It provided that William and Mary should be succeeded by their eldest child, if they should have children; if not, by Mary's sister **Anne**: also that no **Catholic** should succeed to the throne.

WILLIAM AND MARY.

William III. was one of our greatest kings, a skilful commander and a very able statesman.

The bishops and clergy who would not take the oath to William and Mary were called "**Non-jurors**," and lost their offices. We first meet now with the word "**Jacobites**," which was the name given to the followers of **James II.** The freedom of the people was fully settled at this **Revolution**, as the change from James to William was called, and parliament soon set to work and passed the **Mutiny and Toleration Acts**.

William met with opposition in Scotland and in Ireland. The Scotch were defeated after winning the battle of **Killiecrankie**, 1689, where their great leader **Viscount Dundee** was slain.

The chief events in Ireland, where James was supported because he was of the Catholic religion, were the **siege of Londonderry** (1689) and the **Battle of the Boyne** (1690). At this last place James and his French and Irish army were thoroughly defeated.

Over the French, **Admiral Russell** won the naval battle of **La Hogue** (1692), after a slight victory had been gained by the French admiral off **Beachy Head** (1690). William himself was defeated at the **Battles of Steinkirk** (1692) and **Landen** (1693), but took the strong fortress of **Namur**, which he had before lost, in 1695. The war ended by the **Peace of Ryswick** (1697), a treaty which was on the whole favourable to England.

WILLIAM III.

In 1694 the king's wife, **Mary**, died of smallpox, and to her memory William built **Greenwich Hospital**. A plot against his life, called "**Barclay's Conspiracy**," was made, but failed, in 1696. A great event in this reign was the establishment of the **Freedom**

of the Press, which has dated from 1695. In the year 1701 the **Act of Settlement** was passed, which provided that at William's death the crown should go to the **Elector of Hanover**.

William died in 1702 from the effects of a fall from his horse.

QUEEN ANNE.

Queen Anne, who succeeded William in 1702, was a dull but good woman. She was greatly ruled by the **Duchess of Marlborough**, and her husband the great **Duke of Marlborough**, who won such fame against the French. William III. had formed the **Grand Alliance** against France, and Marlborough was chosen to lead the English. He proved himself one of our greatest generals, and in the war of the **Spanish Succession**, with the aid of **Eugene of Savoy**, he won the great battles of **Blenheim** (1704), **Ramilies** (1706), **Oudenarde** (1708), **Malplaquet** (1709). In 1704 **Sir George Rooke** took **Gibraltar**.

The war was ended in 1713 by the **Treaty of Utrecht**, by which England gained large territories in **America**.

Marlborough's duchess at last lost the favour of the queen through her imperious ways, and Marlborough's enemies caused him to be dismissed from his commands.

Although England and Scotland had been ruled by the same king since 1603, they were not united as one country having one parliament till the **Act of Union** passed in 1707. Scotland still kept her established Church and her own laws. Anne died in 1714, and **George, Elector of Hanover**, became king.

[An event of some importance was the preaching of a sermon by **Dr. Sacheverel** against toleration to dissenters, and other things. Sacheverel was impeached, but very lightly punished. This event widened the division of the country into two great parties, — **Whigs** and **Tories**.]

GREAT MEN OF STUART TIMES.

The Stuart Period is distinguished for the number of great writers, &c., who lived during these years.

Shakespeare and **Ben Jonson** were the great playwrights of the time. **Francis Bacon** wrote his famous *Essays* and philosophical works. The **Earl of Clarendon** wrote the *History of the Rebellion* between 1667 and 1674. **Samuel Butler** wrote *Hudibras*, and **John Bunyan** the *Pilgrim's Progress*. Two of our great poets, **John Milton** and **John Dryden**, also lived during this period.

Richard Baxter, a dissenting minister who refused to be made a bishop by **Charles II.**, wrote two famous books called *Saints' Everlasting Rest* and *Call to the Unconverted*.

Isaac Walton was the author of the *Complete Angler*, published in 1653, and the great preacher **Jeremy Taylor** has left to us his *Holy Living and Holy Dying*. **John Locke**, one of our greatest philosophers, wrote his *Essay on the Human Understanding*, and

Gilbert Burnet, the friend of William III., wrote a *History of the Reformation*, and other works.

GREAT MEN OF STUART TIMES (*continued*).

In Queen Anne's reign we meet with **Joseph Addison**, **Daniel Defoe**, **Dean Swift**, and **Richard Steele**, who were great writers.

In science, **William Harvey** discovered the circulation of the blood. The **Royal Society** was founded by **Charles II.** **John Flamsteed** was the first astronomer-royal. **Sir Isaac Newton**, whose name is the greatest of modern times in science, made great discoveries.

Rubens, **Vandyke**, under **Charles I.**, **Sir Peter Lely** under **Charles II.**, and **Sir Godfrey Kneller** under **William and Anne**, were great painters; whilst **Inigo Jones** and **Sir Christopher Wren** were famous architects.

GEORGE I.

George I., the first of the line of **Hanover**, became king in 1714. He was a foreigner, knowing very little indeed of English affairs, and was not much liked.

In 1715 the **Jacobite Rebellion** took place in Scotland to regain the throne for the **Old Pretender**, but it was put down at the battle of **Sheriffmuir**. In 1716 an English rebellion for the same purpose was crushed.

The greatest man of the day was **Sir Robert Walpole**, who was soon able to show his sense in dealing with the great **South Sea Bubble** of 1720, in which so many people were ruined.

In 1721 **Walpole** became chief minister, and made it his aim to keep England at peace with all nations. **George I.** died in 1727.

[A law was passed in this reign called the **Septennial Act**, which required that a new parliament should meet at least every seven years. In this reign also appeared Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, and Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*.]

GEORGE II.

George II. knew more about England and English affairs than his father. **Walpole** still continued in power, and kept peace till 1739, when he was forced into a little war with **Spain**. In 1740 **Commodore Anson** began a four-years' sail round the world, and did much damage to the Spaniards on the coast of **Peru**. **Walpole** lost his power in 1742, leaving us in a war on the **Continent** called the **War of the Austrian Succession**.

In 1743 **George II.** himself gained a victory over the French at **Dettingen**, and was the last English king to lead an army to battle.

The years 1745-46 were noted for the second **Jacobite Rebellion**, which was in favour of the **Young Pretender**, **Bonnie Prince Charlie**.

The rebels won the battle of **Prestonpans**, but were completely

defeated by the **Duke of Cumberland**, the **Butcher**, at **Culloden Moor** in 1746. The Pretender fled to France.

GEORGE II. (*continued*).

In 1754 **William Pitt**, afterwards **Earl of Chatham**, one of our greatest ministers, came to the front just at the time that a struggle was going on between the English colonists in North America and the French of **Canada**. This struggle became part of the great **Seven Years' War**, which was carried on in **Europe**, **America**, and **India**. England was unfortunate until 1757, when Pitt's return to power at once worked a change. The brave **General Wolfe** won the battle of **Quebec** in **Canada**, 1759, but died in the moment of victory. In the next year Britain became master of all **Canada**.

In **India** **Robert Clive**, who had risen from a humble clerkship, laid the foundation of our great Indian Empire. He drove the French from their settlements in Southern India, and punished the Bengalese for their treatment of the English at the **Black Hole of Calcutta**, by winning the **Battle of Plassey**.

In George II.'s reign lived those two great preachers, **John Wesley** (the founder of the **Wesleyans**) and **George Whitfield**. The followers of these two men were called **Methodists**.

GEORGE III.

George III., the grandson of **George II.**, came to the throne in 1760. Although good in private life, as a king he was one of the worst we have had. He was greatly under the influence of his mother, who wished him to be an absolute monarch. The members of the House of Commons were bribed to support the king's ministers, and did not represent the people. Many of them were elected members for small and unimportant places, which belonged to lords and others who could do as they pleased there.

The end of the **Seven Years' War** came in 1763 by the **Treaty of Paris**. By this treaty Britain gained large territories in North America.

[During this reign a great fight for liberty was fought by **John Wilkes**. He denounced the **Peace of Paris** and the government in his newspaper, the **North Briton**. His article was condemned by the Commons as a libel, but public opinion was so strong on his side that since his time the **Press** has been free. Wilkes was afterwards elected M.P. for **Middlesex**, expelled from the House, but re-elected a second and third time, until the people saw that **Parliamentary Reform** was necessary.]

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

In 1765 trouble began with our colonies in North America, which at last ended by our losing that part now called the **United States**. To get money **Mr. Grenville** first, and **Lord North**

afterwards, tried to tax certain articles sent to America. Our colonists refused to pay any such taxes unless they were represented in parliament, and in spite of the warnings of **Lord Chatham**, **Edmund Burke**, and **Charles James Fox**, matters went from bad to worse.

War broke out in 1775 with the defeat of the British troops at **Lexington**. The famous **George Washington** was made leader of their forces by the colonists, who, by the **Declaration of Independence**, July 4th, 1776, declared themselves free.

In 1777 **General Burgoyne** with all his English army was forced to surrender at **Saratoga**. Then England wished to do away with the taxes, but it was too late; and in 1781 another English army under **Lord Cornwallis** surrendered at **Yorktown** in **Virginia**. The war ended by the **Treaty of Paris** (1783), by which the United States were recognised as forming an independent country.

[In this reign potteries were established by **Wedgwood**, the spinning-jenny, the spinning-machine, and the steam-engine were invented, and the great English newspapers were started. The famous **Dr. Johnson** wrote; his friend **Oliver Goldsmith** also.]

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

During the latter part of the American war we engaged in war with **France**, because that country was sending help to America. **Spain** and **Holland** then joined France.

From 1779 to 1782 **Sir George Eliott** successfully defended **Gibraltar** against France and Spain.

In 1782 **Lord Rodney** gained a great victory over the French fleet in the **West Indies**. The war was closed in 1783 by the **Treaty of Versailles**.

In this same year there appeared in parliament two famous Englishmen, **William Pitt** the younger, and **Richard Brinsley Sheridan**.

To **William Pitt** fell the hard lot of having to manage the affairs of England during the **French Revolution**, which was accomplished with much bloodshed and horrible cruelties in 1789 and following years.

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

Pitt at first favoured the **Revolution**, but, urged on by **Burke**, the English people called for war, which **Pitt** was bound to declare against France. In this war shine forth the names of **Napoleon Bonaparte**, **Wellington**, and **Nelson**.

In 1797 **Nelson** and **Sir John Jervis** defeated the French fleet at the **Battle of St. Vincent**, and in the same year **Admiral Duncan** won the **Battle of Camperdown**. In 1798 **Nelson** gained the great **Battle of the Nile**, and in 1801 the **Battle of Copenhagen**. The **Peace of Amiens**, 1802, did not stop the

war for long. Napoleon planned an invasion of England. Nelson lost his life at the **Battle of Trafalgar**, 1805, in which the French and Spanish fleets were destroyed.

Whilst this war was going on, Pitt had also been engaged in affairs of peace, and in the year 1800 he abolished the Irish Parliament. By this **Act of Union** Ireland sent members to the British Parliament meeting at **Westminster**.

[The British rule in India was further strengthened. **Warren Hastings** and **Sir Eyre Coote** defeated a rebellious native prince, **Hyder Ali**. **Tippoo Sahib** was defeated at the battle of **Seringapatam**. **Sir Arthur Wellesley** defeated the **Mahrattas** at **Assaye**.]

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

Pitt had made an alliance with the chief European governments against France. In 1805 Napoleon defeated our allies **Austria** and **Prussia** at **Austerlitz**, and soon after he was master of nearly all Europe. He then sent forth his famous **Berlin Decrees** against the trade of England.

In 1807 Bonaparte dethroned the King of Spain, and put his brother Joseph in his place. The Spaniards rose in arms, and were joined by the **Portuguese**, and as Portugal was our ally we determined to help her. Thus began the **Peninsular War**.

In 1808 **Sir Arthur Wellesley** twice defeated the French, but in 1809 the brave English general, **Sir John Moore**, lost his life in winning the **Battle of Corunna**.

Pitt died in 1806. One of his last acts was to stand up on behalf of the poor slaves, and in 1807 the **slave-trade** was done away with in the British colonies.

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

Sir Arthur Wellesley went back to **Portugal** (1809), and by a succession of glorious victories carried the British army to the height of its fame. In 1809 at **Talavera**, in 1810 at **Busaco**, in 1811 at several points in Portugal and Spain, and in 1812 at the fortresses of **Ciudad Rodrigo** and **Badajoz**; and soon after at the great battle of **Salamanca**, **Wellesley**, or as he was now called, **Viscount Wellington**, defeated, one after the other, the ablest of the French generals.

Whilst these last battles were being fought, Napoleon was carrying war into **Russia**. From this country he was driven out, and the forces of **Russia**, **Sweden**, **Austria**, and **Prussia** followed him across Europe.

In 1813 **Wellington** won the **Battle of Vittoria**, and crossed, after severe fighting, the **Pyrenees** into France. Napoleon, now surrounded, was forced to give in, and in 1814 was sent as a prisoner to the island of **Elba**.

Wellington was rewarded with the title of **Duke**.

Principal Events of the Peninsular War.

1809. Battle of Talavera.	1812. Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajoz taken. Salamanca.
1810. Battle of Busaco. Torres Vedras lines held.	1813. Vittoria.
1811. Battle of Fuentes d'Onore.	1814. The allied armies enter Paris.

GEORGE III. (*continued*).

Napoleon, in March, 1815, escaped from Elba, raised another army, and defeated the Prussians at **Ligny** on June 16th; but his great general, **Ney**, was defeated by the English on the same day at **Quatre Bras**, in **Belgium**.

On June 18th took place the great **Battle of Waterloo**, in which the English, assisted by the **Prussians**, completely ruined Napoleon, who was afterwards sent to **St. Helena**, where he died in 1821.

The **National Debt** had reached nearly 900 millions. The country was now in a distressed condition, and a corn-law of 1815 made that condition worse. The severe "**Six Acts**" were passed to prevent people from expressing their opinions freely. In 1817 the **Princess Charlotte**, daughter of the **Prince Regent**, died. The old king died in 1820, aged eighty-one.

PROGRESS OF BRITAIN FROM 1714-1820.

The eighteenth century was the period during which our trade and manufactures, as well as the number of our people, increased so rapidly. By the inventions of **Hargreaves**, **Arkwright**, and **Crompton**, the towns of **Manchester** and **Bolton** became known throughout the world for the manufacture of **cotton**.

The **steam-engine**, that wonderful work of **James Watt**, astonished the world in 1769, whilst in 1757 **James Brindley** made the first canal from **Manchester** to **Liverpool**. Roads were improved by **Macadam's** system. Thus not only was the way now open for an increase in the amount of manufactures, but ways were also being found out to spread that increase through the country.

PROGRESS OF BRITAIN, 1714-1820 (*continued*).

Englishmen were also busy abroad as well as at home. **Hastings**, **Cornwallis**, and **Wellington's** brother the Marquis **Wellesley** built up our Empire in India, and **Captain Cook** was busy in discovering new lands. We gained possession of **Malta**, **Cape Colony**, and many other places.

Dr. Jenner made himself famous by his discovery of the means of preventing small-pox by **vaccination**. **Sir Humphry Davy's** **safety-lamp**, invented in 1815, has been an untold blessing to miners.

Gas now lighted our streets.

Among our great writers lived at this time the poets **Pope**, **Gray**, and **Goldsmith**, and later on **Burns**, **Byron**, **Campbell**, **Coleridge**, **Shelley**, **Moore**, and **Sir Walter Scott**; the novel-

ists were **Richardson**, **Fielding**, **Smollett**, and **Sterne**, and the great **Sir Walter Scott**. **Gibbon** was a great historian, and **Adam Smith** a great political economist.

The noted painters of the period were **Hogarth**, **Sir Joshua Reynolds**, **Gainsborough**, and **Turner**. **Guy's Hospital** and the **British Museum** were founded, and the **Eddystone Lighthouse** built.

GEORGE IV. AND WILLIAM IV.

In 1820 **George IV.**, who had been regent for nine years during the insanity of his father, became king. He was a bad man in private life, and as a ruler counts for little. His quarrel with his wife became a public matter, and riots occurred at her burial.

In 1822 the famous man, **Sir Robert Peel**, became one of the ministers, and set on foot the new police force in London. Taxes in this reign were made a little lighter, and the country grew in wealth.

Catholics had been shut out from parliament and public offices since the days of **Charles II.** In **George IV.**'s reign, after a great stir brought about by **Daniel O'Connell**, they were allowed to sit in both Houses, and all but a few of the highest offices were opened to them.

The Greeks rose against Turkey in order to gain their independence; and the **English**, **French**, and **Russian** navies gained the victory of **Navarino** in 1827 in their behalf.

WILLIAM IV.

In 1830 the sailor prince, **William IV.**, succeeded his brother.

The great event of this reign was the passing of the **Reform Bill** in 1832, after a civil war had nearly been brought about, because of the opposition of the **House of Lords**, led by the **Duke of Wellington**. It was this Act of parliament which made the House of Commons more really represent the people. The two great changes made were (1) in the places which sent members, (2) in the large increase of voters.

In 1833 £20,000,000 were paid to do away with slavery in our colonies. In 1835 the useful **Municipal Reform Act** was passed, by which town-councils were elected by the ratepayers.

[The colony of **Victoria** was founded in 1835, and **South Australia** in 1836.]

VICTORIA.

In 1837 **Queen Victoria** came to the throne at the age of eighteen. She had been well trained for her high office by a loving mother, and her reign will leave its stamp upon the pages of history for the enormous progress made in science, art, trade, manufactures, learning, wealth, and good conduct among the mass of the people.

22,000 miles of railway now run through the land in all directions; the penny postage and electric wires carry our messages wherever we wish to send them. Steam has been put to new uses. Many more men have been given the right of voting.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

At the commencement of the reign the **Chartists** made the country uneasy with riots, in order that the working people might have greater power than was given them by the Reform Bill of 1832. Most of their demands have now been peaceably granted by law.

In 1837 and 1838 the working class were in great distress from bad harvests, slack trade, and the high price of corn, owing to the corn-laws, which put heavy duties on corn from abroad. **C. P. Villiers, Richard Cobden, and John Bright** have made themselves a name by their efforts to bring down the price of corn, and therefore the cost of living, by abolishing the tax on foreign corn. The **Anti-corn-law League** was started in 1838.

A potato-famine in Ireland in 1845 gave added strength to the movement, and in 1846 **Sir Robert Peel** succeeded in passing the Act abolishing the corn-laws.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

Now came the great struggle for the cause of **Free-trade**. By free-trade we mean that foreigners might be allowed to send their goods into the country free from tax. The taxes were removed from many articles, and much lowered on others. The effect of this has been to increase trade and cheapen necessary articles.

Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Gladstone were the chief actors in conferring this benefit on the country.

In 1867 and 1884 the power of working men was still more increased by the **second and third Reform Acts**. These still further increased the number of voters, and arranged the voters in more convenient divisions. The **Trade Union Act** of 1871 enabled workmen to protect themselves against hard masters, and various laws have been passed for the benefit of working women and children, and workmen of all kinds.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

The abolition of the **stamp duties** and the duty on paper has increased the number of books and newspapers and lowered their price. In 1870 the **Elementary Education Act** was passed, compelling all children to go to school until they have reached a certain standard of knowledge. **Jews and Dissenters** have been relieved from many disadvantages; in particular the **Universities** have been thrown open to them.

Flogging has been done away with in the army and navy, and before men can become officers they now have to pass difficult examinations.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

In this long reign we undertook the **Chinese Wars** of 1839, 1856, and 1859, to compel the Chinese to open their ports to our trade; the **Abyssinian War** of 1868 to set free English subjects imprisoned by the king; the **Ashantee Wars** of 1874, 1896, and 1900, to bring into subjection the king of that savage tribe, and to stop the human sacrifices and other atrocities carried on there; the **Zulu War** of 1878 to protect the Boers, and **Boer Wars** of 1880 and 1899. The first was waged to retain the Transvaal as a British colony; and the second to secure to all whites in the Transvaal equal rights.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

We interfered in Egypt in 1882 to put down a native rising. Owing to the Mahdist rebellion, **General Gordon** was sent to withdraw the Egyptian garrisons from the Soudan. Gordon was killed in 1885, and it was not till 1898 that **Khartoum** was recaptured and the dervishes crushed.

By far the greatest war of the reign was the **Crimean War**, in which we engaged along with France in 1854 on behalf of **Turkey**, against **Russia**. Our soldiers, although badly clothed and fed, and not properly sheltered, won for themselves great glory at the battles of **Alma** and **Balaclava**; at the great victory of **Inkermann**, 1854; and at the famous twelve-months' siege of **Sebastopol**, which ended September, 1855. Peace came in April, 1856.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

In 1840 the Queen married **Prince Albert of Saxe-Gotha**. He suggested the **Great Exhibition**, held in 1851. In 1852 the **Duke of Wellington** died, and was buried in St. Paul's.

Great prime ministers have been **Lord Palmerston** (died 1865), **Lord Beaconsfield** (died 1881), and **Mr. Gladstone** (died 1898).

In 1887 the **Queen's Jubilee** was celebrated. Ten years later there were even greater rejoicings in celebration of the **Diamond Jubilee**. The Queen died on the 22nd of January, 1901.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

The **Indian Empire** was largely increased during Victoria's reign, and much was done to better the condition of the natives. The **Sikh wars** gave us the Punjab. In 1857 the terrible **Indian Mutiny** broke out. Many English, including women and children, were massacred, before the rebels were vanquished by the brave generals **Havelock**, **Sir James Outram**, and **Sir Colin Campbell**. The greatest events in the war were the massacre of **Cawnpore** and the capture of the great towns **Delhi** and **Lucknow**. In 1858 the old **East India Company** was abolished, and since then our Indian Empire has been under the rule of a

Viceroy in India itself, and a **Secretary for India** (assisted by a council) at home.

In the East the **Empire of Burmah** has been added to India, and in the north-west, besides the two great wars with Afghanistan (1839 to 1842 and 1878 to 1880), there have been numerous frontier wars with the robber hill-tribes. Most of these now acknowledge the Viceroy's authority. In 1897 and in 1900 India suffered severely from famine, and on both occasions great sympathy was shown for the people of India by their fellow subjects throughout the Empire.

VICTORIA (*continued*).

The **Australian colonies** have become very populous and wealthy during Victoria's reign. They are now united and form the Commonwealth of Australia. New Zealand, not yet included in the Commonwealth, is a very prosperous colony.

In **North America**, the province conquered by **Wolfe** in 1759 has now become millions of miles in extent. It includes **Canada**, **British Columbia**, **Vancouver's Island**, &c., which are rich in metals, corn, furs, &c.

In the extreme south of **Africa**, we have gradually built up by war or purchase a vast possession called **Cape Colony**, **Natal**, **Kaffirland**, &c. From these we get ivory, diamonds, &c.

Science has been pushed forward in different directions by astronomers like **Herschel**, **Adams**, **Airy**; geologists like **Lyell**, **Miller**, **Murchison**; the great electrician **Faraday**; and the great biologists **Owen**, **Huxley**, and **Darwin**. **George Stephenson's** name is well known as the maker of the first good railway engine.

In painting, **Turner**, **Landseer**, **David Cox**, **Stanfield**, and **Millais** shine forth; as do **Wordsworth**, **Browning**, and **Tennyson** in poetry.

As other great writers we must note **Dickens**, **Thackeray**, **George Eliot**, **Captain Marryat**, **Charlotte Bronte**, **Charles Kingsley**, and **Thomas Hood**.

John Ruskin is the greatest of all modern writers upon art.

In different periods and styles of history **Macaulay**, **Hallam**, **Carlyle**, **Froude**, **Freeman**, **Gardiner**, **Green**, **Napier**, **Kinglake**, and **Grote** are famous.

TABLE OF SOVEREIGNS.

871 Alfred the Great.	1327 Edward III.	1649-1660 The Common-wealth.
1066 William I. (the Conqueror).	1377 Richard II.	
1087 William II. (Rufus).	1399 Henry IV.	
1100 Henry I. (Beauclerc).	1413 Henry V.	1660 Charles II.
1135 Stephen.	1422 Henry VI.	1685 James II.
1154 Henry II. (Plantagenet).	1461 Edward IV.	1689 { William III.
1189 Richard I. (Cœur de Lion).	1483 Edward V.	1689 { Mary II. (died 1694).
1199 John (Lackland).	1483 Richard III.	1702 Anne.
1216 Henry III.	1485 Henry VII.	1714 George I.
1272 Edward I. (Longshanks).	1509 Henry VIII.	1727 George II.
1307 Edward II.	1547 Edward VI.	1760 George III.
	1553 Mary I.	1820 George IV.
	1558 Elizabeth.	1830 William IV.
	1603 James I.	1837 Victoria.
	1625 Charles I.	

IMPORTANT DATES.

597 Augustine's Mission.	1707 Act of Union (Scotland).
1215 The Great Charter.	1716 Septennial Act.
1221 Landing of the Friars.	1776 Declaration of American Independence.
1295 The First Parliament.	1800 Act of Union (Ireland).
1477 First Book printed in England.	1807 Abolition of the Slave Trade.
1534 The Act of Supremacy.	1815 Battle of Waterloo.
1587 Execution of Mary Queen of Scots.	1829 Catholic Emancipation Act.
1588 The Spanish Armada.	1832 First Reform Act.
1611 The Authorized Version of the Bible.	1846 Repeal of the Corn Laws.
1628 Petition of Right.	1858 India a British Possession by the abolition of the East India Company.
1673 Test Act.	1867 Second Reform Act.
1679 Habeas Corpus Act.	1884 Third Reform Act.
1689 Declaration of Rights.	
1701 Act of Settlement.	

GENEALOGICAL TABLES.

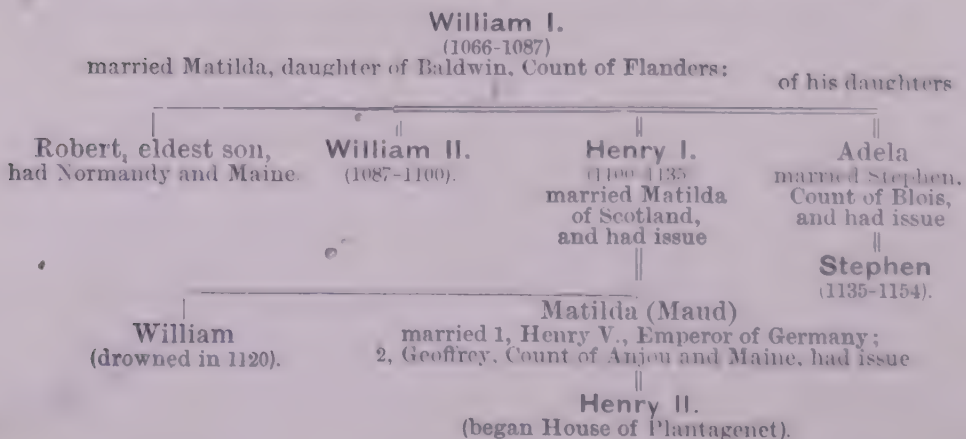
TABLE I.—*Descendants of William I. down to Henry II.*

TABLE II.

House of Plantagenet (1154-1485) to Richard II.

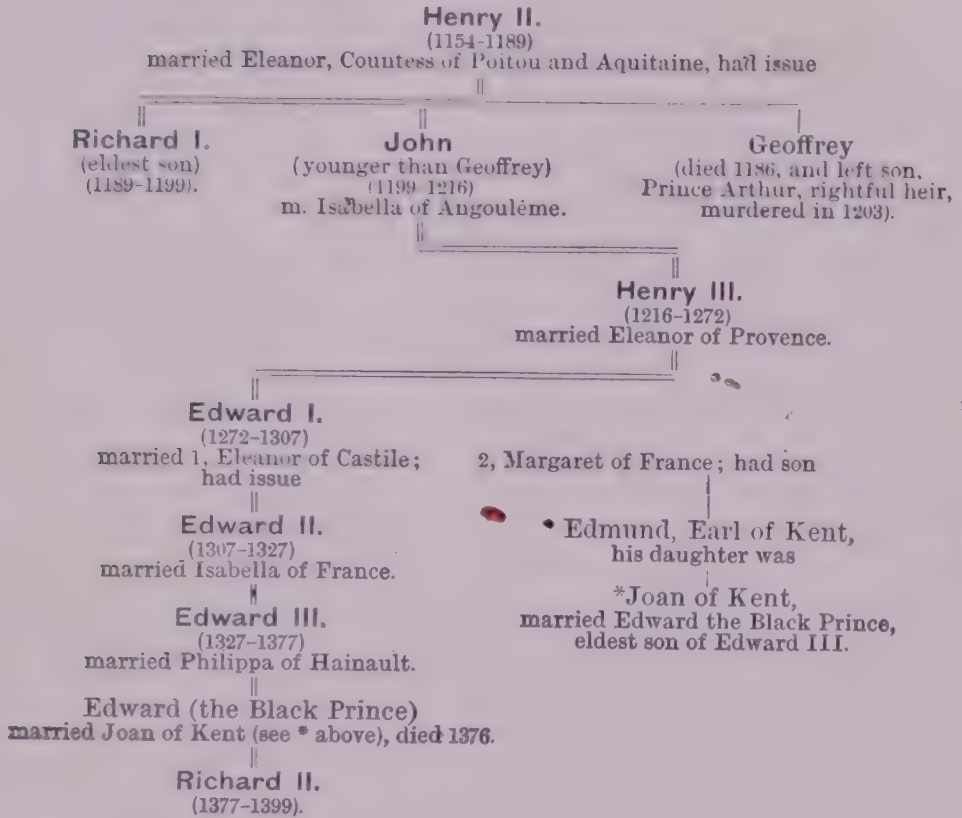


TABLE III.—*House of Lancaster.*

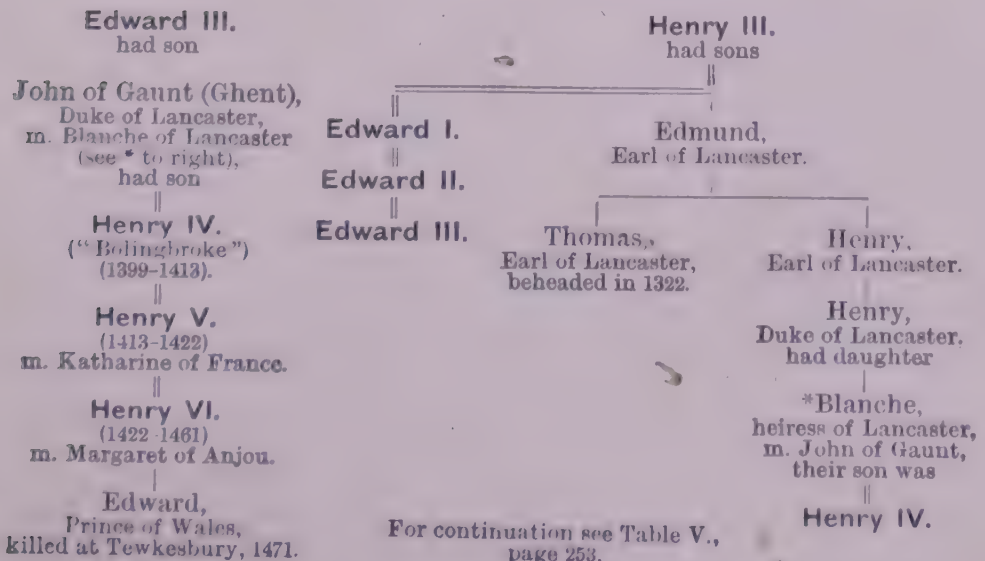


TABLE IV.—House of York.

Edward III.

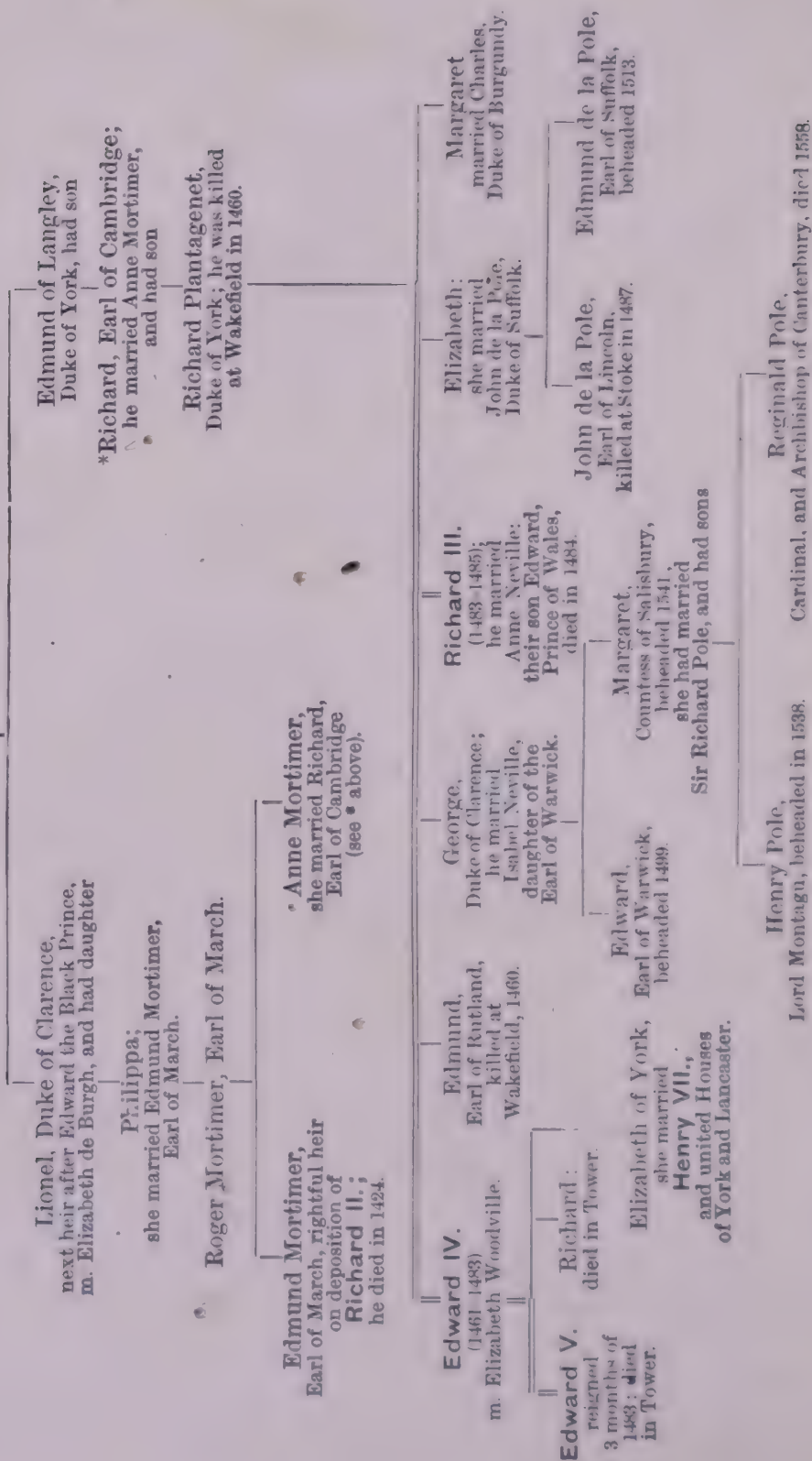


TABLE V.

House of Lancaster (continued).

Genealogy of HENRY VII. (Henry of Richmond).

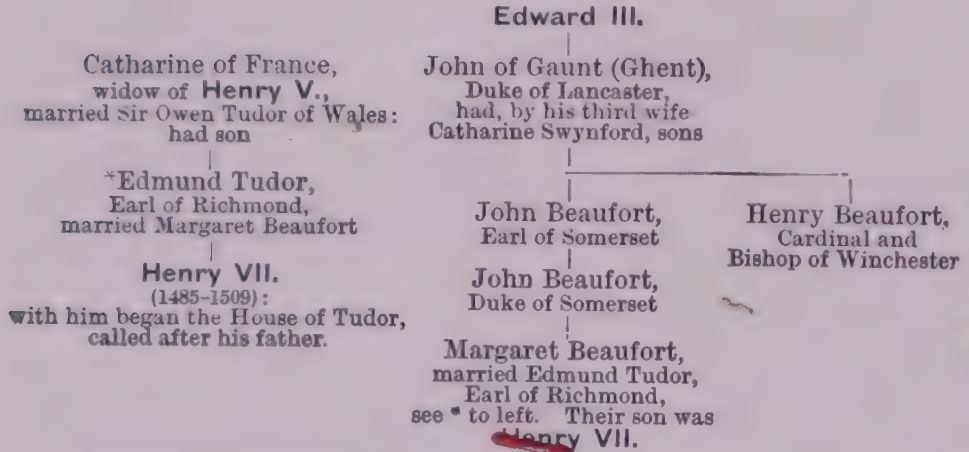


TABLE VI.

House of Tudor (1485-1603).

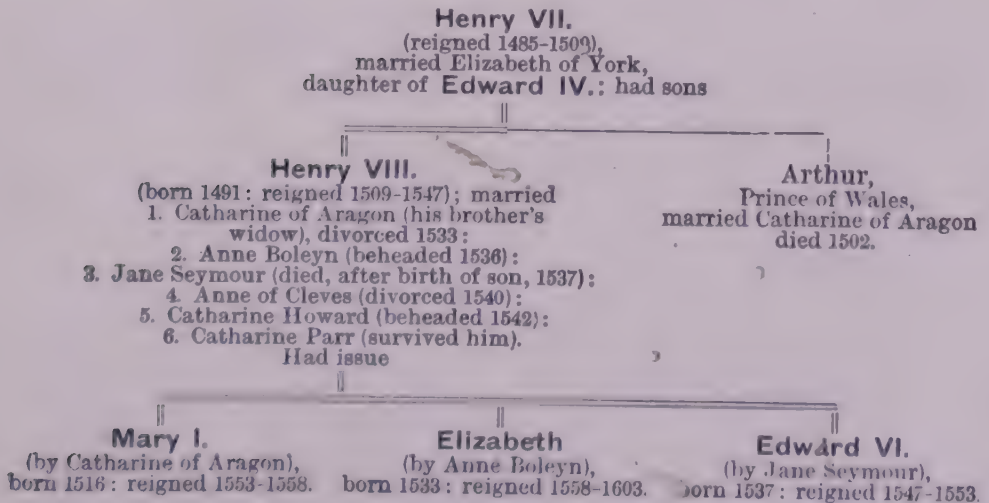
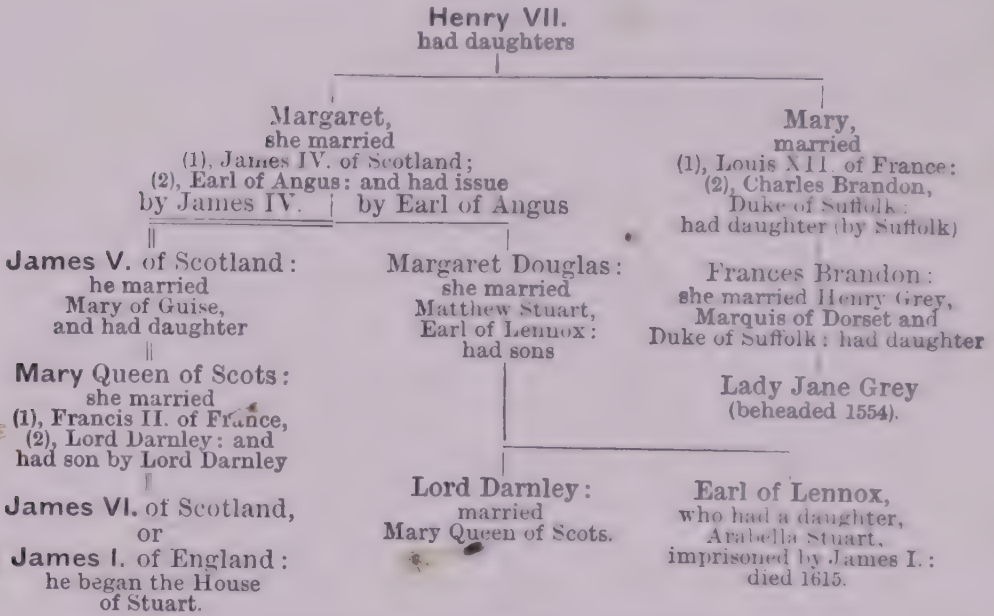
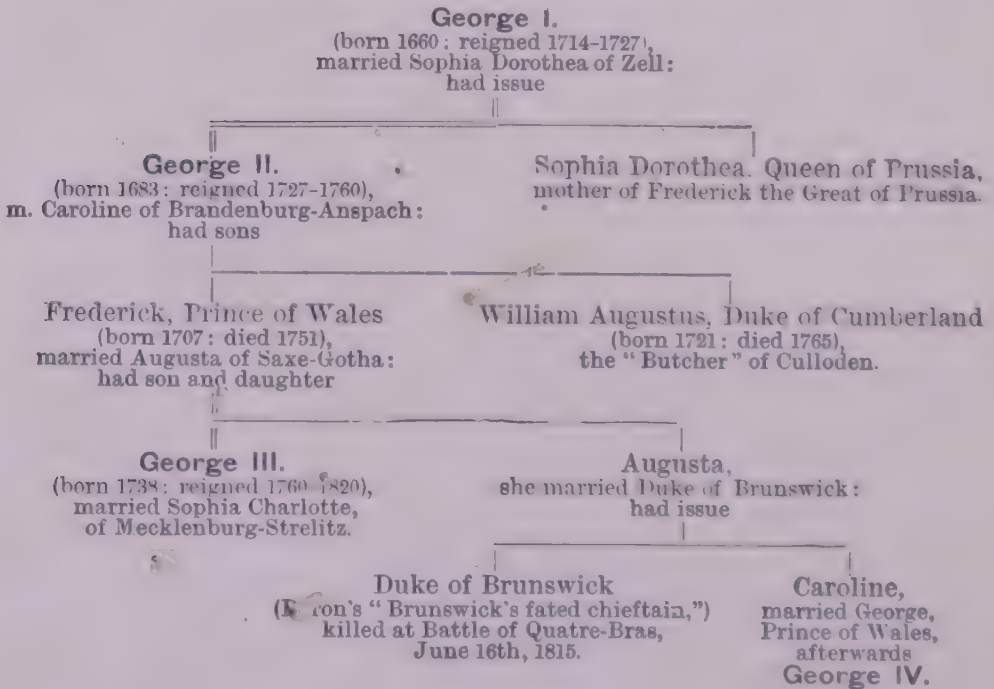


TABLE VII.—*Descendants of Henry VII.'s daughters :
Union of Tudor and Stuart lines.*



For continuation of House of Stuart, see Table VIII., p. 255.

TABLE IX.—*House of Hanover (1714).*



For continuation of House of Hanover, see Table X., p. 256.

TABLE VIII.

House of Stuart—1603-1714 (with Commonwealth 1649-1660).

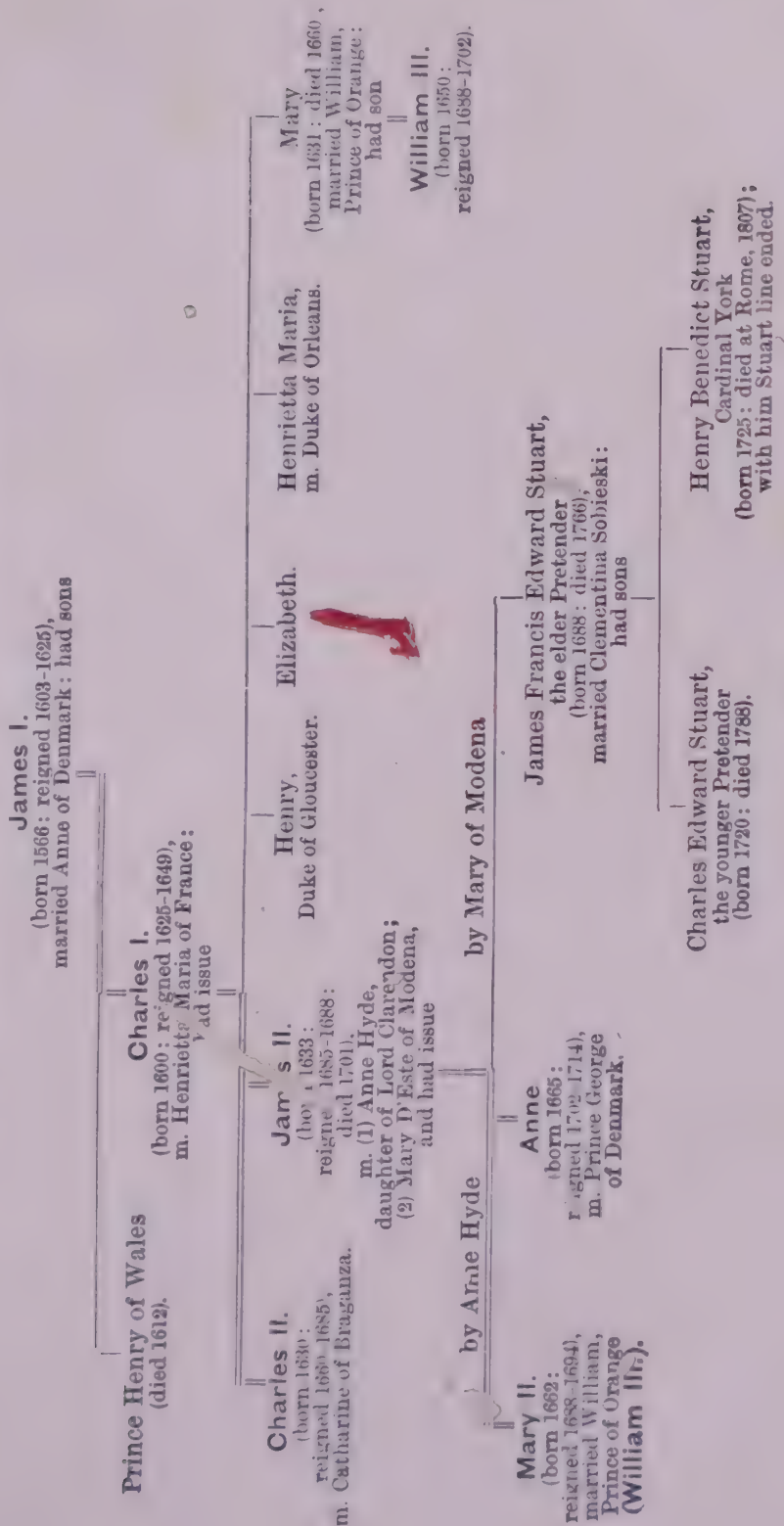


TABLE X.

House of Hanover, 1714 (continued).—George III.'s descendants.

George III.

married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

George IV.: born 1762; reigned 1820-1830; married Caroline of Brunswick; they had daughter Princess Charlotte; married Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, late king of the Belgians; died 1817.	Frederick, Duke of York; died 1827.	William IV., Duke of Clarence; born 1765; reigned 1830-1837; m. Adelaide of Saxe-Meiningen, the late Queen-Dowager.	Edward, Duke of Kent; died 1820; he married Victoria of Saxe-Coburg.	Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, late King of Hanover; died 1851; had son George, ex-king of Hanover; born 1819.	Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex; died 1843. had children	Adolphus Frederick, Duke of Cambridge; died 1850. had children	Six daughters.	
Princess Charlotte: married Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, late king of the Belgians; died 1817.			Victoria: born May 24th, 1819; reigned 1837-1901; m. Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.		George, Duke of Cambridge; Commander- in-chief; born 1819.	Duchess of Mecklenburg- Strelitz; born 1822.	Mary Adelaide, Duchess of Teck; born 1833.	
Edward VII.: born Nov. 9th, 1841; married Princess Alexandra of Denmark, March 10th, 1863.	Alfred, Duke of Edin- burgh; born 1844; married Princess Marie of Russia; died 1900.	Arthur, Duke of Con- naught; born 1850; married Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia.	Leopold, Duke of Albany; born 1853; married Princess Helena of Waldeck; died 1884.	Victoria, Princess Royal: born 1840; married Prince Frederick of Prussia, Crown Prince of Germany.	Alice: born 1843; married Louis of Hesse; died 14th Dec. 1878.	Helena: born 1846; married Prince Christian of Augusten- burg.	Louise: born 1848; m. Marquis of Lorne, eldest son of Duke of Argyll.	Beatrice: born 1857; m. Prince Henry- Maurice of Battenberg.

<p>Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, born 8th Jan., 1864; d. 14th Jan., 1892.</p>	<p>Prince George: born 3rd June, 1865; married Mary of Teck 6th July, 1893.</p>	<p>Louise, Duchess of Fife, born 29th Feb., 1867; m. Alex. Buff, Duke of Fife, 1889.</p>	<p>Victoria: born 6th July, 1868.</p>	<p>Maud. born 28th Nov., 1869; married Charles, Prince of Denmark, 1896.</p>
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